Hamilton County

Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey

Nebraska
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Hamilton County
Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey

Prepared for:

The Nebraska State Historical Society

Prepared by:

H. Jason Combs (PI)
Anne M. Bauer
John T. Bauer

501 West 28th Street
Kearney, Nebraska 68845
(308) 236-5137
combshj@unk.edu

July 2009

Executive Summary

The Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) contracted with H. Jason Combs (PI), Anne Bauer, and John Bauer to conduct a Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey (NeHBS) of Hamilton County. The survey was conducted in the summer and fall of 2008 to document properties that possess historic or architectural significance. Hamilton County was previously surveyed in 1984—at that time 546 properties were identified and recorded. The properties were resurveyed in addition to the 183 newly identified and documented properties.

Within the report, when a surveyed building is mentioned, its NeHBS site number follows its reference in the text (for example, HM01-114). These site numbers begin with an abbreviation for the county, HM for Hamilton County, and a two-digit number referring to its location with the county. Each community has a specific number, for instance, Marquette is "06" and rural sites are labeled "00." The last three numbers refer to the building or structure with the NeHBS inventory.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1
Historical Overview of Hamilton County

Introduction

Many early explorers ventured through present-day Nebraska and the initial reviews were not positive. The famous Lewis and Clark expedition in the early 1800s declared that the land was unproductive, and just a few years later Zebulon Pike explored along the Republican River in 1806 and compared the plains in Nebraska to the deserts of Africa.[1] Soon enough the label "Great American Desert" had been applied to much of the region.[2] However, these negative assessments did not prevent other individuals from exploring the region and present-day Hamilton County.

Some of the first Europeans to cross Hamilton County were part of an Indian expedition led by General Stephen Kearney in 1835.[3] The group traversed the territory between the Lincoln and Beaver Creeks, and J. P. Elliot—one of the explorers—later returned to settle in Hamilton County. A few years later in 1842, General John C. Fremont also crossed the county, a route later followed by the Mormons on their march west to present-day Utah (today this route would be just south of Interstate 80).

Many of these intrepid explorers crossed land occupied and/or claimed by Native Americans. In general, Nebraska was divided into two groups—the village dwellers in the eastern half of the state and more nomadic Plains tribes in the west. The Pawnees settled in villages along the Loup, Platte, and Republican Rivers and raised corn and other crops on the river terraces. Other groups occupying parts of eastern Nebraska and possibly Hamilton County were the Iowas, Omahas, Otos, Missourias, and the Poncas. The "decline of these eastern groups began well before white settlement of Nebraska" and the territory that included part of present-day Hamilton County was ceded to the government by the Native Americans in 1833, which was the first step in the pioneer settlement process.[4]

Negative assessments provided by many early explorers did not prevent the eventual tide of pioneers from entering Nebraska. As a result, the Nebraska Territory was organized in 1854 as having boundaries from the Missouri River to the Rocky Mountains including portions of several other present-day states. When Nebraska became the 37th state in 1867, its boundaries were reduced to their present configuration. Today, Nebraska ranks 16th in land area with 77,538 sq mi and 38th in population at 1,711,263 (2000 census).[5]

The United States Public Land Survey enacted in 1785—also known as the Land Ordinance of 1785—established the township and range system and the grid-like pattern of square miles that is evident across Nebraska. Most of Nebraska was surveyed by the mid-1800s. The Public Land Survey system divides the land into townships, each township containing thirty-six sections; each section contains 640 acres or one-square mile.[6] Pioneers making land claims in the 1800s were able to acquire parcels in a systematic fashion, usually in half- or quarter-sections. Today, Hamilton County

covers parts of Townships 9 to 14 North and Ranges 5 to 8 West.

Two congressional acts in the mid-1800s tremendously impacted the state. The Transcontinental Railroad Act and the Homestead Act, both passed in 1862, transformed the Nebraska landscape. The Union Pacific Railroad traverses 472 miles from Omaha to the Colorado border and was completed in less than three years. The railroad transformed Nebraska from a "thinly populated corridor of westward expansion into a booming agricultural state that promised to become one of the leading food producers in the nation."[7] The Homestead Act provided pioneers 160 acres of land if they constructed a permanent structure and resided on the land for five years. The Act changed the landscape in dramatic fashion and started a "great tide of emigration for the west and especially Nebraska."[8] By 1900 "almost sixty-nine thousand people had acquired land in Nebraska under the Homestead Act—the largest number in any state in the Union."[9] However, nearly half (43 percent) of those who filed Homestead claims in Nebraska failed to secure title to the land.

Hamilton County

The earliest settlement in Hamilton County occurred in conjunction with the early overland trails. In 1861, a group from Nebraska City decided to find a shorter route west to Fort Kearny by avoiding the long northward bend in the Platte River. A path was cut across present-day Hamilton County which rejoined the Oregon Trail approximately eight miles east of Kearney. The Nebraska City-Fort Kearny cut-off

saved several miles and soon became a popular route—it was also referred to as the Old Fort Kearney Road and the Pike's Peak Trail.[10] Overland stations soon appeared in present-day Hamilton County. David Millspaw established a ranch in 1861 in Section 11, Township 10, Range 5.[11] A year later, John Harris and Alfred Blue set up the "Deep Well Ranch" on Beaver Creek approximately 2.5 miles north of present-day Giltner, Nebraska. In 1863 an overland stage line followed this route and "Prairie Camp" was established as a relay station six miles west of the Millspaw Ranch. Another trail ran adjacent to the Platte River in northern Hamilton County and the earliest known ranch providing service to this trail was established in 1862 by J. T. Briggs.[12] Little evidence of these routes remains today and even in the early 1920s it was noted that traces of the old trails were fast disappearing.[13]

Hamilton County's boundaries were officially established in 1867 at the time of statehood (Figure 1) and the county was named for Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury in President George Washington's cabinet.[14] The county was not organized until 1870 following a general election held at John Harris' house near the Blue River. The first county seat was Orville City (8 miles south of Aurora), named in honor of Orville Westcott, son of C. O. Westcott, the county's first treasurer.[15]

In 1879, the first railroad line reached Hamilton County from York to Aurora. This Burlington & Missouri line later extended to Grand Island in 1884.[16] Other routes soon branched from Aurora north to Central City and southwest to Hastings. In 1890 a total of
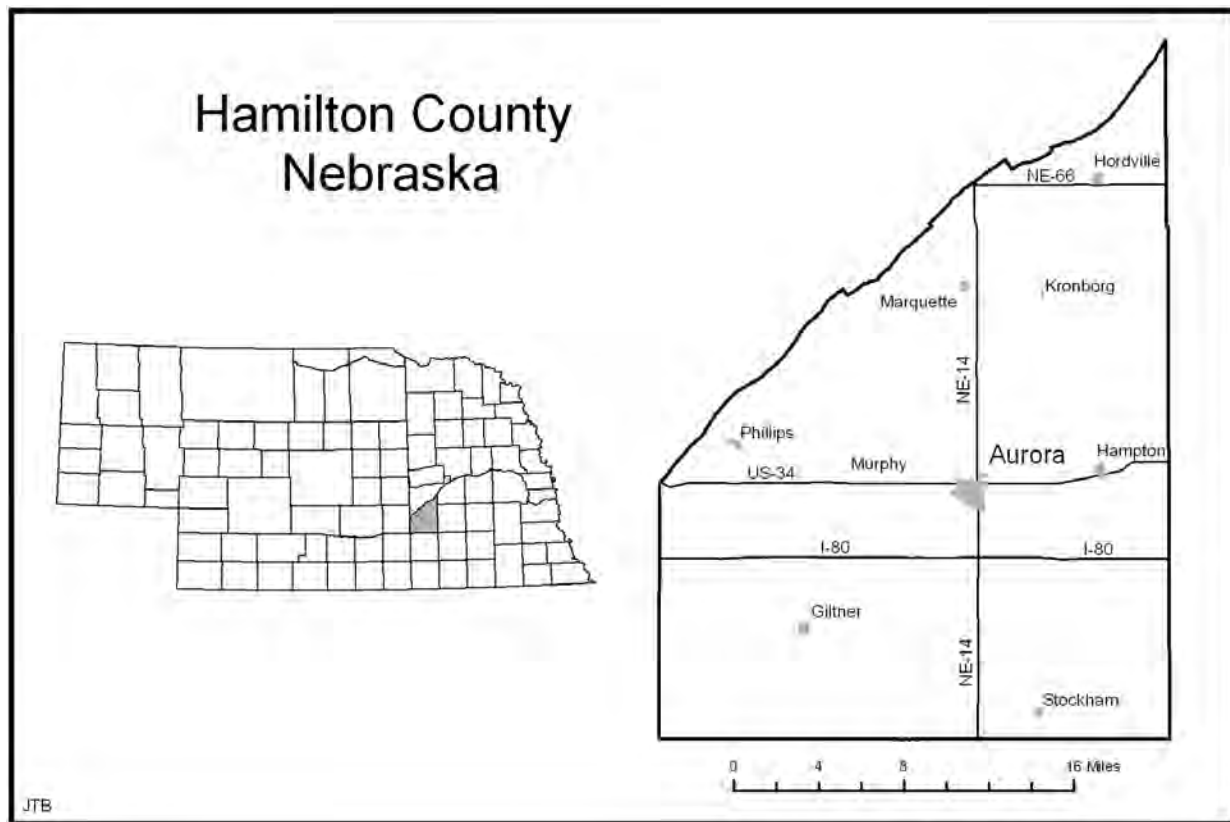
Figure 1. Location of Hamilton County and its communities.

66-1/3 miles of lines were in operation in Hamilton County. By 1927, Hamilton County had direct railroad connection from "Aurora to Omaha, Lincoln, and other important cities of Nebraska," providing markets for farm products, "especially livestock, dairy, and poultry products."[17]

Several major automobile routes serve Hamilton County. State Highway 14 connects Central City to Aurora and continues on south, and US Highway 34 runs east to west from York to Grand Island across the county. Additionally, Interstate 80 bisects the county east to west across the county a few miles south of Aurora. Construction of Interstate 80 in Nebraska began in 1957 near Gretna and was completed in 1974 near Sidney for a total length of 455 miles across the state.

Hamilton County is located in the southeastern part of the state in a physical region known as the Central Loess Plains. Andreas (1882) in the *History of the State of Nebraska* described this area as the "garden portion of the state."[18] Hamilton County covers approximately 538 square miles and elevations range from 1,660 feet above sea level in the eastern portion to nearly 1,900 feet in the west. Much of Hamilton County's territory is "level or undulating, sloping slightly toward the east, and is dissected by a few streams that flow eastward."[19] The Platte River valley dominates the county's northern boundary and is approximately 100 feet below the county's general level.[20]

Initial Settlement and Ethnic Clusters

Hamilton County's first permanent settlement took place in June of 1866 on the

3

Blue River when Jarvil Chaffee set up a homestead in Section 34, Township 9, Range 6 (HM00-122). Chaffee's "Homestead Certificate was signed by Ulysses S. Grant on May 1, 1872 after Mr. Chaffee had proved up on his land."[21] Following Chaffee were James Waddle and John Brown who both settled in Section 26, Township 9, Range 5 in the Farmer's Valley precinct in January of 1867.[22] These initial pioneers were the beginning of a flood of settlers who entered the county in the early 1870s.

Chaffee Monument (HM00-122).

Although the railroads captured much of the overland freight traffic, pioneer overland travel continued and even intensified.[23] Hamilton County's population exploded in the late 1800s (Table 1). At the time of the 1870 census Hamilton County's population stood at 130. Ten years later that number had increased to 8,267 and in 1890 the county reached its highest population ever at 14,096. Since that peak Hamilton County's population has slowly declined, (Table 1). As the population surged in the late 1800s numerous rural school districts were created. Each district

Table 1. Hamilton County Population, 1870-2000

Census Year	Total Population
1870	130
1880	8,267
1890	14,096
1900	13,330
1910	13,459
1920	13,237
1930	12,159
1940	9,982
1950	8,778
1960	8,714
1970	8,867
1980	9,301
1990	8,862
2000	9,403

Source: www.census.gov.

represented a small geographical area and the first school was organized near Stockham in 1870 and by 1885 Hamilton County had ninety-eight organized districts.[24] By the early 1920s, there were over 100 districts in Hamilton County.[25] Currently only a handful of districts remain as a result of widespread consolidation, and few, if any, of the rural school houses remain.

Most of the early settlers came from Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, Ohio, and the New England States. Later, immigrants came from Germany, Sweden, England, and Russia.[26] Geographically, these ethnic groups settled in clusters across the county. The "Danes settled principally in the northeastern part of the county; Swedes in the northwestern part; Irish, Bohemians, and Germans in the southwestern part; and Russian Mennonites in the southeastern part." [27] There were "little enclaves of Czech people which have existed around Giltner,

the flourishing Danish culture of the Kronborg area, the Swedish culture of Hordville and environs, the Russian German culture which extends west into Hamilton County from the Henderson [York County] region, and the Irish who settled west of Aurora in and around such Irish-name towns as Murphy."[28]

These ethnic groups were the basis for strong religious congregations and a number of rural church complexes. One of the biggest ethnic congregations found in northeastern Hamilton County were some 200 families in a Danish Lutheran Church (HM05-001).[29] Of all the groups the "Danes of Kronborg have perhaps retained the closest ties to a cultural past of the Scandinavian groups in the county. . . . Lives of the Danish immigrants around Kronborg centered on the congregation at St. John's. From the beginning, a conscious effort was made to preserve a Danish heritage, both physically and spiritually."[30] The St. John's complex continues to dominate the area and serve as a focal point for the community.

Also in northeastern Hamilton County is the Zion Lutheran Church and School (HM00-045). Similar to other rural churches, Zion Lutheran has been the focal point of the surrounding German settlement for decades and is a noteworthy structure. The area was settled by Germans and the first church was erected in 1877. This church was replaced in 1885 with another structure which burned in 1896.[31] The present Zion Lutheran Church was dedicated in 1897 and is part of a rural religious complex, which includes a cemetery, church, parsonage, and school. The exterior

St. John's Lutheran Church, Kronborg (HM05-001).

Zion Lutheran Church (HM00-045).

of the church was altered in 1972 when a new foyer was added, but the interior retains much of its original character. A large U-shaped balcony wraps around three sides of the nave and pressed tin is found throughout the building.

Another large ethnic cluster formed in the southeastern part of the county, where the Russian Mennonites constructed a

church in 1887 at a cost of roughly $3,000. Other denominations and ethnic congregations include Baptist, Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian, and United Brethren Churches.[32] Most of the country churches are no longer standing; however, many cemeteries remain and highlight the importance the rural congregations played in the life of Hamilton County.

Agriculture in Hamilton County

Much like many Hamilton County citizens today, the early pioneers were engaged in agriculture. Vanek et al. (1985), contend that farming "has always been the major occupation in Hamilton County." With the advantage of fertile soils, grain crops have dominated much of Hamilton County's agricultural history. An early account describes the soils in Hamilton County as similar to the "finest garden mold, dark color, easily worked, and eminently productive. The soil in this county is from two to three feet deep, and when properly tilled has never been known to disappoint the husbandman, good and sure harvests being the result of honest labor."[33]

Corn was the dominant crop even before widespread irrigation. Hamilton County in 1890 had 119,237 acres in corn— the most of any crop—and 48,960 acres in wheat, the next highest total.[34] Hamilton County today continues as an agricultural leader in Nebraska and the reliance on grain crops dominates. Currently in Nebraska the "eastern Corn Belt counties are not the largest corn producers in the state. Corn is concentrated in the irrigated central Platte Valley, the irrigated areas of Hamilton and York counties, and the northeast portion of

the state."[35] In 2002, Hamilton County ranked first in Nebraska in the value of crops produced, had the second highest number of acres in corn, and was seventh in popcorn production.[36]

Corn has long dominated the agricultural economy, but methods and the agricultural landscape have changed dramatically over the last century. As a result of mechanization the scale of farming in the United States has been altered, which has had "significant impacts on rural life."[37] Hamilton County historian Bertha Bremer (1967) accurately points out that "power equipment has accelerated farming, and no longer are farm operators content with quarter sections of land, nor can they afford to operate on such a small scale due to increased costs of operation."[38] Indeed, the number of farms has steadily declined since its peak in 1900 while the number of acres per farm has increased. In 1900, over 2,000 individual farms were located in Hamilton County and by the mid-1960s there were nearly 1,100 farm units (Table 2).[39] As for average size, in 1920 the average Hamilton County farm was 179.7 acres in size and typically ranged from 160 to 240 acres.[40] The most recent census of agriculture numbers reveal that the consolidation trend continues. In 1997, Hamilton County had 697 farms that averaged 507 acres in size. By 2002, the number of farms had declined to 603 and the average size had increased to 577 acres.[41]

Hamilton County annually receives approximately twenty-six inches of precipitation, sufficient for wheat, sorghum, and range grasses. For decades, this total has played a significant part in Hamilton

Table 2. Number of Farms, 1850-1950

Year	Number of Farms
1850	NA
1860	NA
1870	NA
1880	1,597
1890	2,039
1900	2,049
1910	1,944
1920	1,882
1930	1,766
1940	NA
1950	1,453

Source: www.census.gov.

County's agricultural history. Irrigation canals and wells first appeared in the late 1930s in Hamilton County. *The Aurora News* editor spearheaded a campaign to get farmers interested in deepwell irrigation; in August 1940, it published a "picture of the Gilbert Benson farm where corn was estimated to make a yield of 80 bushels, and a dryland farm across the road that day pictured burned up corn three feet high."[42] Deepwell irrigation rapidly expanded in the county. By 1942, twenty-six systems were in place and in February 1955 the 500th well was drilled on Helen Culbertson's farm. At that time the county had a 500th well celebration and the *Aurora News-Register* declared Hamilton County as "The Deepwell Irrigation Center of the Nation."[43] By the late 1960s, there were approximately 1,600 registered wells in Hamilton County irrigating over 100,000 acres.

In the early 1970s, center-pivot irrigation systems reached Hamilton County. As a result, "there has been a rapid conversion of rangeland to cropland since the introduction of center-pivot irrigation."[44] By the late 1970s, approximately 89 percent of the county's area was cropland. Of that total, 81 percent was irrigated and 19 percent was dryfarmed.[45] In the early 1980s, the number of irrigation wells had increased to over 2,600 for both center-pivot and gravity flow systems.[46]

Today, Hamilton County still relies heavily on ground water for irrigation. "Large supplies of ground water are available to wells from the Quaternary deposits" and that depth for sufficient supplies ranges from "5 feet in the alluvium near the Platte River to 135 feet on the uplands northeast of Hordville."[47] Generally, ground water resources are available between eighty and one-hundred feet in most parts of the uplands.[48] According to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR 2008), Hamilton County currently has 3,361 irrigation wells that water just over 400,000 acres. This number is inflated as some acres are reported for more than one well because the county only covers roughly 344,000 acres.

Hamilton County also has a long history of farm cooperatives which are still evident in the cultural landscape. In the early 1900s, the populist agrarian movement resulted in the formation of a number of local grain cooperatives. A "general demand for better grain markets, which was the result of the excessive margins that were taken by grain dealers in this as well as in other counties, was the impelling force in the organization of the present companies."[49] The first farmers' elevator, located in Hordville, incorporated in 1906 and by 1915 all Hamilton County communities had elevators—Aurora (1908), Marquette (1909), Stockham (1910), Phillips

(1910), Hampton (1910), and Giltner (1915). In 1921, Burr and Buck (1921) claim that "Hamilton is the only county in Nebraska, or probably in any other state, that has a farmers' elevator at every railroad station."[50] Today, grain elevators in Hamilton County's communities can be seen for miles away, are the largest structures, and serve as one of each town's focal points (HM02-020, HM04-023, and HM06-032).

Grain Elevator, Giltner (HM02-023).

Grain Elevator, Hordville (HM04-023).

Grain Elevator, Marquette (HM06-032).

Hamilton County Towns

Like many regions in the Midwest and Great Plains, many of the county's original towns are no longer present. These small communities have been moved or replaced as populations have shifted in relation to changing economic issues and changing transportation patterns. Baltensperger contends that "town development became heavily dependent on rail connections, as a town without a rail line was not a town for long."[51] For example, J. F. and T. H. Glover founded the town of Hamilton—which briefly campaigned for the county seat—just a few miles from Aurora. It was an "active, lively place" in 1874-75 but after locating the county seat in Aurora most of the businesses and houses were moved to the more "successful rival."[52]

Most other early settlements have long disappeared. Early towns included Alvin, Avon, Buckeye, Bunker Hill, Cedar Valley, Leonard, Lerton, Mirimichi, Orville City, Otis, Penn, Shiloh, Stockham, St. Joe, and Williamsport.[53] Of the towns that remain Giltner, Hampton, Marquette, Murphy, and Phillips are located on the railroad.[54]

Similar to the grid pattern of sections across the rural landscape, Hamilton County's towns were also platted as a series of square blocks. Additionally, most of the communities—especially the railroad towns—are designed as T-Towns. In early town planning Main Street often began at the tracks "creating an arrangement in which the railroad formed the bar of a T-shaped configuration."[55]

In regard to population, Hamilton County's towns have demonstrated a number of trends (Table 3). Five of the seven rural communities peaked in population between 1900 and 1940, which is typical of most small towns in the Midwest and Great Plains. However, four of those

Bromfield, Nebraska's "T-Town" Plat (Dunham 1888).

five have demonstrated recent population gains which runs contrary to popular notions that small towns are on the verge of disappearing. Furthermore, Aurora peaked in population at the most recent census in 2000 with 4,225 citizens and has steadily increased since 1940 (Table 3). However, as farm consolidation continues it is most likely that Hamilton County's towns, outside of Aurora, will struggle to maintain their

Table 3. Hamilton County Population by City, 1890-2000

Year	Aurora	Giltner	Hampton	Hordville	Marquette	Phillips	Stockham
1890	1,862	195	430	NA	261	NA	211
1900	1,921	282	367	NA	210	186	169
1910	2,630	410	383	NA	290	274	189
1920	2,962	387	457	191	305	274	239
1930	2,715	355	369	175	318	221	211
1940	2,419	325	310	160	245	205	197
1950	2,455	284	289	116	218	190	82
1960	2,576	293	331	128	210	192	69
1970	3,180	408	387	147	239	341	65
1980	3,717	400	419	155	303	405	68
1990	3,810	367	432	164	281	316	64
2000	4,225	389	439	150	282	336	60

Source: www.census.gov.

current populations. Pat Dinslage (1992) in the *Grand Island Independent* discusses population issues in Hordville (population 150) and Polk (population 322) and contends that both "are dependent upon the surrounding farming community" and likely to see continued population declines.

Selecting the County Seat of Government

Great Plains scholar Bradley Baltensperger (1985) contends that "disputes over county seats were the wars of frontier Nebraska. Fraudulent elections to select a county seat might be followed by theft of the county records, showdowns, court battles, and more thefts of records."[56] To a large degree, Hamilton County's eventual selection of Aurora matches Baltensperger's description. Orville City, which had been surveyed and recorded in 1870 and located on the West Blue River, was selected in 1871 as Hamilton County's first seat of government. That distinction would not last long. Soon after establishing Orville City in the county's southeastern portion as the county seat, a group of citizens started to protest the selection, calling for a more central location. In the "first election Aurora received over two-thirds of the votes cast, which was the necessary majority at that time, but the commissioners would not order the removal" because the results were deemed illegal.[57] Another vote was held in 1874, where 399-1/2 votes were required for victory. In that contest Aurora collected 399 votes, Hamilton 147, and Orville City just 53. By law, Aurora had failed to meet the required number; however, Aurora "imprudently organized a company of some 150 of her citizens and friends and went to Orville City, and by violence and force took

possession of the county court house and loaded up the records and safes and brought them to Aurora."[58] A "writ of mandamus compelled them to be taken back to the county seat the following spring."[59] Soon thereafter, Darius Wilcox (one of Aurora's original town founders) visited Lincoln and successfully lobbied the state legislature to change the requirement to three-fifths of votes cast to change county seats. In May a special election was called, although by this time Hamilton, Nebraska, was making a legitimate challenge for the county seat. County historian Bremer (1967) refers to Hamilton as Aurora's "bitter enemy" and the "strongest contender in the three-cornered contest" for county seat.[60] In the May election Aurora won by a small majority and in June another election was held and Hamilton won by a slim margin. The fifth and final vote based on a pure majority (half plus one) was held in October of 1875. At this election, Aurora received 481 votes and Hamilton 400; hence, Aurora officially became the seat of government in early 1876. Soon after the election Hamilton and Orville both merged with Aurora, and Hamilton quickly became a "deserted village."[61]

Aurora, Nebraska

In 1871, David Stone represented a group of men (James Doremus, S. Lewis, Robert Miller, J. Ray, Nathaniel Thorpe, and Darius Wilcox) from Lucas County, Iowa, who wished to establish a town in Hamilton County. Stone was chosen to visit the area and secure land for the new community. The town company ran into problems and dissolved; however, Robert Miller and Nathaniel Thorpe continued with the plan

and headed west. Coming to a point on Lincoln Creek where two cottonwood trees stood like "sentinels on the banks" they choose the site for what would become Aurora. Today this location is part of Streeter Park (HM01-243).

Lincoln Creek, Aurora. Courtesy of the Nebraska State Historical Society.

Streeter Park Entrance, Aurora (HM01-243).

In August 1871 David Stone erected the "first frame building in the town, a store and residence, in which he opened the first stock of general merchandise brought to the new place."[62] Additionally, the town itself is named for Stone's hometown, Aurora, Illinois, and not for the "Aurora borealis, which was very luminous at that time, as some suppose." [63]

After acquiring the county seat Aurora was incorporated on July 3, 1877. John

Helms, General Delevan Bates, W. H. Streeter, John Raben, and Harry Kemper were appointed trustees—Helms served as president and W. L. Whittemore was clerk.[64]

Two years later (1879) the Burlington and Missouri Railroad came to town, which proved to be a major turning point in the community's history. The Burlington and Missouri River Railroad had announced plans for a line from York on west through Aurora and Hamilton County. The stipulation was that the town had to provide $72,000 for the project ($48,000 of which was due when the line reached Aurora). A vote to raise the bond was held and of the 1,194 votes cast, 956 were in favor and only 238 opposed. As a result of the overwhelming support, the railroad lowered the bond amount to $50,000.[65] Soon Aurora was connected to other cities via rail and telegraph lines. When the railroad "ran its first regular train into the town October 14, 1879, a great forward stride was made, and a period of activity ensued which rapidly carried the town into rank with her neighbors in surrounding counties."[66] Within a decade the railroad had extended lines from Aurora west to Grand Island (1884) and north to Central City (1886).[67]

Aurora Opera House. Courtesy of the Nebraska State Historical Society.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, Aurora blossomed as Hamilton County's primary city, dominating both business and government affairs. Bradford (1979) states that the "business life of Aurora in the late nineteenth century was extremely vital and, of course, influenced the extent and the demand of the cultural life."[68] Early enterprises included a cigar factory, a broom factory, and a washing machine company.[69]

These were not individual efforts; leading citizens often joined forces to help Aurora prosper. Furse (2004) in the *Aurora News-Register* points out that Aurora has a long history of community spirit and economic development. An excellent example is the Temple Craft Association formed in 1888 by thirty-one men to promote Aurora's business community; the Temple Craft building remains and is located on the southwest corner of 12th and M Streets in Aurora (HM01-186).[70] Fourteen of Aurora's leading business men pledged $25,000 in capital for the project and the associations' bylaws stated that the "object of the project was to encourage building, improvement and to promote the material prosperity of Aurora."[71] This association was just one catalyst impacting Aurora's business community which ultimately spurred others to invest in the community.

In addition to the associations and factories, banks and mercantile establishments dominated Aurora's business community. The Hamilton County Bank was established in 1877 by George Wildish; Wildish was later bought out by W. H.

Temple Craft Building, Aurora (HM01-186).

Parade in Aurora following "M" Street. Courtesy of the Nebraska State Historical Society.

Streeter in 1886.[72] In 1883, Streeter along with E. J. Hainer and W. I. Farley had established the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank; Streeter later withdrew in 1886 to head the Hamilton County Bank. T. E. Williams arrived in Aurora in 1888 from Eau Claire, Wisconsin to accept the position of cashier in the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank.[73] Several banks (Aurora Banking Company, Hamilton County Bank, Farmer's and Merchants' Bank) merged over the next decade and First National Bank appeared in 1898. W. H. Streeter was the president and remained in that capacity until his death in 1907, at which time T. E. Williams was elected president, a position he held until his retirement in 1917.[74]

Streeter-Peterson House, Aurora (HM01-076).

Other locally owned banks included the Aurora State Bank (1889) organized by D. E. Thompson, A. G. Peterson, and Harvey Cole; and the Aurora National Bank (1889) with which Thompson and Peterson were also involved. Aurora National Bank eventually sold to the Grand Island National Bank in 1915. By the early 1920s, Aurora was home to three of Hamilton County's largest financial institutions—the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank, the Fidelity National Bank, and the First National Bank.

A. G. Peterson made significant contributions to the development of early Aurora (HM01-076). County historians Burr and Buck (1921) describe Peterson as one of the "leading citizens of the community," and note that Peterson had been involved in Aurora's business community (banks, lumber companies, general stores, and real estate) for nearly four decades at the time of their writing in 1921.[75] Peterson "has built up industries, as well as erected buildings," and the "buildings he has been concerned in he has favored permanence of construction."[76]

By the 1920s, Aurora had a full complement of local businesses and

industries and Bradford (1979) argues that Aurora experienced somewhat of a boom in the 1910s and 1920s.[77] Commercial business was brisk and the farm economy was doing well as a result of high commodity prices. Along with several of the businesses remaining from the 1890s there were new banking ventures, clothing stores, drug stores, and hardware stores, in addition to two candy stores, a taxi company, a florist, a chiropractor, and the Aurora Junk & Iron Company.[78] The boom years quickly faded as the depression hit in the 1930s and several banks failed—the American State Bank had already closed in 1920 and the Fidelity State Bank ceased operations in 1932. Construction came to a halt.[79] It wasn't until after World War II the economy stabilized and Aurora once again prospered, in part to the "large supplies of underground water . . . that has made the county rich."[80]

Today, the courthouse is Hamilton County's signature building (HM01-001). The courthouse has been described as an "imposing spired structure [that] provides a meaningful symbolic focus for the town, as well as for the entire county. The visual impact of a landmark like the courthouse tower is especially important in a prairie town like Aurora, where very little else assumes vertical visual dominance."[81] Burr and Buck (1921) add that Aurora is "handsomely located near the geographical center of the county" and "tastily and regularly laid out, with a fine public square in the center" and that the 1895 courthouse is a "fitting monument to the wealth and prosperity of Hamilton County."[82]

The present-day courthouse is the third such building in the county.[83] The first stood

Hamilton County Courthouse (HM01-001).

Bandstand Courthouse Square (HM01-199).

Hamilton County Courthouse. Courtesy of the Nebraska State Historical Society.

in Orville City which was moved to Aurora in 1876 and "placed four blocks west of the square."[84] A new frame courthouse was erected on the town square the following year but it burned on January 7, 1894 and many of the county's early records were lost. Hamilton County's citizens moved quickly to replace the old courthouse and chose William Gray from Lincoln, Nebraska as architect and Atkinson Brothers & Company from Colorado Springs as contractors. The present courthouse constructed with red bricks and red Colorado sandstone is dated 1895 and the cost of construction was approximately $60,000.[85] The courthouse was later adorned with flashing strobe lights donated by the Harold Edgerton family, the "Aurora native who invented strobe photography."[86]

Aurora today continues to play a leading role in Hamilton County.[87] Its population has steadily increased in recent decades and the community is blessed with a number of substantially built businesses and private residences. Additionally, Aurora has a number of outstanding public spaces. A number of significant structures and city parks are located throughout the town (HM01-120). The largest is Streeter Park on the city's north edge, which occupies the original town site selected in the 1870s (HM01-243).

Giltner, Nebraska

In 1886, the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad placed a branch line from Aurora to Hastings which provided the impetus for Giltner's rapid growth.[88] Giltner actually began as Huntington, Nebraska, which had been surveyed and platted by the

Lincoln Land Company in 1886. Soon thereafter, the post office in the community of Lerton was moved to Huntington and the town was then renamed Bromfield—Huntington's mail had been confused with Hartington, Nebraska. However, Bromfield did not last long either. When early settlers named their community Bromfield "they again struck a snag with the U.S. Postal Service."[89] There was another town named Bloomfield, Nebraska and as a result Bromfield was renamed Giltner. This switch took place in 1895 and the name Giltner was chosen in honor of Reverend H.M. Giltner, a local Presbyterian minister.[90]

Bird's Eye View Looking West, Giltner. Courtesy of the Nebraska State Historical Society.

Like many small towns in Nebraska, Giltner's business community had an agricultural focus and was supported by the rural population. Giltner had two elevators, the East grain elevator was owned by Harris, Woodman & Company and run by J. A. Foster, while the West elevator was controlled by W. H. Ferguson and J. R. Kerr.[91] Farm equipment stores were under the leadership of George Pierce and H. S. Frymire, and J. T. Harrison operated the Dietz Lumber Company. The earliest bank of record was controlled by the National Lumber Company and sold to William

Glover and W. H. Wheeler in 1888. In that same year the village was incorporated with C. E. Brown, L. P. Wheeler, W. H. Leniberger, John McCarthy, and Charles Allen serving as trustees.[92] Other early establishments included Mather's Pioneer Store, S. D. Wait Shoes, and John Oliver Meats. By the 1920s entrepreneurs Charles Colton, H. C. Falmlen, J. A. Marvel, and E. F. Wilson had opened a variety of stores.[93]

Hampton, Nebraska

The rivalry between Aurora and Hampton started early in Hamilton County's history. Hampton (originally called Murray) was surveyed and platted in 1879 during the period of time when the railroad was extended from York to Aurora.[94] Citizens in Aurora objected to the new community in fear that Hampton would detract from Aurora's growth.[95] Aurora's objections did not deter Joshua Cox of Illinois and the driving force behind Hampton's establishment. The town achieved incorporation on January 10, 1883.[96]

Joshua Cox purchased approximately 1,000 acres in 1879 and 1880, and his brother, James Cox, bought another 1,000 soon thereafter. They quickly platted the new town and sold lots. Ernest Leyer built the first general store and C. R. Young erected the first house—Young also built a grocery store. In 1880, G. P. Chessman constructed the first grain elevator in Hampton and the first school was completed in 1881.[97] Hampton quickly became a local shipping center for agricultural goods—in 1887 the Hampton railroad station shipped out 1,065 railroad cars of grain and in 1888 another 700 grain cars.[98]

Two churches also served Hampton in the 1880s. The Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1883 and erected a structure that cost nearly $1,500. Two years later the Christian Church was established, with a new 32' by 60' structure dedicated the same year (1885).[99]

By the 1920s, Hampton was served by a wide array of businesses, ranging from the First National Bank and the Farmers Cream Station to the Hampton Auto Company and the Maleck Brothers Meat Market. One of Hampton's oldest buildings is the Hampton Co-operative Elevator Company, first organized in 1910.[100] In 1954 the two elevator companies merged and a large storage facility was erected. By the end of 1960 its storage capacity increased to 830,000 bushels (HM03-001).

Grain Elevator, Hampton (HM03-001).

Hordville, Nebraska

Hordville (briefly called Stark) was the last town formed in Hamilton County, a result of Union Pacific Railroad building a branch line from Stromsburg in Polk County to Central City in Merrick County. Initially, the plan was to construct two towns 7.5 miles apart between Stromsburg and Central City. However, land was not available at two locations, and as a result Hordville was selected and named for T. B. Hord, a cattle feeder from Central City who owned extensive tracts of land in the vicinity.[101] The site was selected by the Townsite Company of Stromsburg, and Hordville was designed by Oliver Reedy, a civil engineer for the Union Pacific Railroad. Reedy also designed Hordville's "twin city" Polk which is straight east just across the Polk County line.[102] The original town plan was forty acres in size, with thirty of those acres coming from the Fridhem Lutheran Church—$100 an acre was paid for the forty acres. Soon after the towns were laid out, many "Swedish, German, and Danish settlers moved in from the rural areas and small neighboring communities."[103]

Hordville was platted in 1906 and eventually incorporated in 1916, with the Fridhem Church serving as the town's nucleus.[104] The church predates the city by several years, with the original structure being built in 1882 (The later First Baptist Church was initially organized in 1878 and relocated from a rural location to Hordville in 1920). Under the leadership of Reverend Gibson the Lutherans built a new structure in 1908-1909, which still stands today and has a tower approximately eighty feet in height (HM04-002).[105] Its size and exterior design is "almost identical to the old Danish Lutheran Church" that now stands at the Stuhr Museum in Grand Island—it was moved to the museum in 1966.[106]
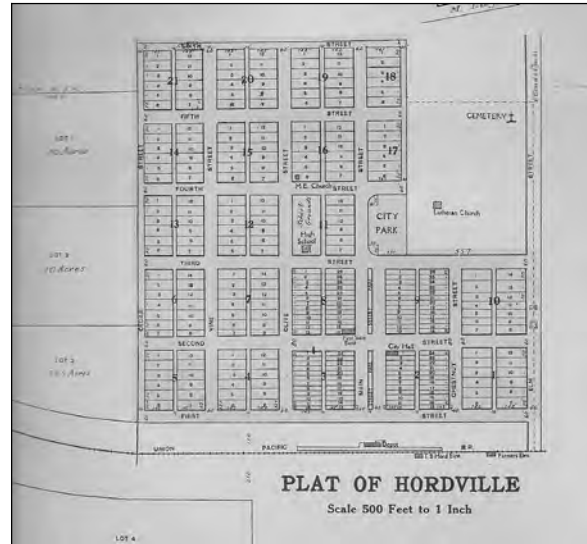
Fridhem Lutheran Church (HM04-002).

older section built around 1927 is the original coal-burning boiler. According to school officials, the auger bucket for the heating system holds about 520 pounds of coal and will use "about one-half ton of coal a day" when cold temperatures arrive.[110]

Hordville's atypical plat (The Aurora Republican 1916).

Fridhem's size and design might be common and somewhat uniform for Nebraska Lutheran churches, but the spatial layout of Hordville and the Fridhem Church's role in the community is not. The church's position is "somewhat rare in Nebraska" and that a "simple, white church with its tall tower overlooking the village green is an image most frequently encountered in New England, and its appearance here is unexpected and may be linked to Hordville's atypical plan."[107]

Another prominent feature in the Hordville skyline is the local grain elevator. Bertha Bremer (1967) states that the "Hordville Co-operative Elevator Company is the fourth oldest elevator of its kind in the state."[108]

One of "Hordville's most unique historic features is tucked away in the school basement" (HM04-017).[109] In the school's

Hordville Public School (HM04-017).

Marquette, Nebraska

In the spring of 1880 the "Burlington and Missouri River Railroad extended its lines of road from Aurora to Central City, providing the incentive for another town along its route in the county."[111] As a result, the town of Marquette was created and an

older depot was moved from Dorchester to the "new" site. Marquette was named for Thomas Marquette, an attorney for the Lincoln Land Company, and Marquette's Main Street is called Marquis in honor of J. W. Marquis who sold 100 acres to the company for the town site.[112] According to Burr and Buck (1921), George Shears purchased the first lot in Marquette and also started the first grocery store; James Ruby built the first dwelling. In the early 1880s several other stores appeared in Marquette. Those included Fairchild and Deal's (1882) general merchandise store, R. Hughes' drug store, and Lou Bonner's hotel, the latter two established in the same year.[113]

Marquette was eventually incorporated on March 2, 1899 and soon thereafter fires destroyed many of the buildings along Marquis Street. In 1906 the south side was devastated and four years later in 1910 the north side was wiped out by fire.[114] Similar to other Hamilton County communities, rural churches predated the formation of Marquette. By most accounts Marquette's United Brethren Church (HM06-010) was established in 1873 and later moved to town. The Bethel Church was originally located nine miles southwest of Marquette and relocated in the early 1890s.

United Brethren Church, Marquette (HM06-010).

Murphy, Nebraska

Murphy, Nebraska was never incorporated; however, it was at one time a bustling community five miles west of Aurora at the intersection of railroad lines. All that remains today is the grain elevator (HM07-001). The original elevator was constructed in 1909 and opened in 1910.[115] Soon after other businesses followed including the Grosshans Lumber Company and the First State Bank of Murphy. In the early 1950s a tornado destroyed much of what remained of Murphy—the businesses and homes that survived the storm have either been moved or demolished.

Phillips, Nebraska

Phillips was platted by the Lincoln Townsite Company on the Burlington Railroad and as a result it essentially replaced the community of St. Joe, three miles to its southwest. The Burlington Railroad chose the Phillips route instead of going through St. Joe and the town which had been founded in 1881 basically packed up and moved to Phillips. The lots in St. Joe—both sold and unsold—reverted back to Joe Skelton, who had led the charge for St. Joe's existence, as part of his farmland.[116]

Phillips, Nebraska was platted in 1884 (incorporated in 1891) and named for Rollo Phillips.[117] Phillips was born in Pennsylvania, served as a Captain in the Civil War, and was an attorney in Iowa before moving to Lincoln, Nebraska in 1869. Phillips later served as a land agent for the Burlington & Missouri Railroad.[118]

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, Phillips had a number of business

establishments which served western Hamilton County. Phillips at one time had three general stores owned by the Fairchild Brothers, M. K. Grass, and Stephens, Myers and Son; a drug store; and two hardware stores, Burke and Dingman Hardware and Harold Hardware.[119] Other early businesses included three lumber yards (Richey Brothers, White Pine Lumber Company, and Wilse Lumber), Spanogle real estate, J. Van Boskirk farm implements, and William Eckerson's furniture store. Much of the east side of West Street (the main north-south thoroughfare) containing the opera house, a furniture store, a saloon, barber shop, and meat market was destroyed by fire in 1911.[120]

Stockham, Nebraska

Stockham was named for Joe Stockham, the first postmaster in the area.[121] Supplies for the initial settlement were brought from Lincoln and Nebraska City by wagons and the first buildings were erected around 1870. Stockham was originally situated in Section 25 near the Blue River; however, the first Stockham was abandoned in the late 1880s and moved a half-mile to the southwest to its present-day location.[122]

The second Stockham was surveyed and platted in 1887 by the Pioneer Town Site Company and incorporated in September of 1888.[123] Stockham was described as a "lively village on the line of the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad."[124] Some of the early businesses included the Bank of Stockham, P. Moore & Son Drug Store, A. D. Atwood and J. W. Gray livery stables, and a restaurant opened by C. F. Tatro in the late 1880s. In 1888,

The Stockham Reporter, described as a "newsy republican paper," opened for business and was run by F. P. Corrick. A two-story frame school also appeared in 1888 and three churches—the German Lutheran, Presbyterian, and Methodist Episcopal—served the community. Bremer (1967) adds that Stockham had 60 improved lots by 1889 and another 167 unimproved. By the early 1900s the business community had expanded to include the P. J. Maupin General Store, the Stockham Hardware Company, the Grosshans Grain & Lumber Company, and the Yost Lumber Company.[125] By the 1920s, Stockham had been transformed into a bustling economic center. Businesses in operation during the 1920s include: two hardware stores, three grocery stores, a drug store, bank, hotel, theatre, hospital, doctor, dentist, two churches, school, two barbers, pool hall, two garages, implement shop, two blacksmiths, filling station, lumber yard, two grain elevators, post office, two produce stations, meat market, depot, lodge hall, dray service, telephone office, and mortuary.[126]

Today, not only are the businesses closed, but almost all the buildings in Stockham are gone as well. A number of factors have contributed to Stockham's decline over the years. In 1933, the Stockham State Bank closed and the railroad abandoned the Stockham line in 1942—these two events significantly impacted the community.[127] The "final blow came when the Chicago-Northwestern Railroad pulled out their Stockham line in 1941."[128] In addition to the changing economic landscape, Stockham has experienced a number of devastating fires. In 1920, the

school was destroyed by fire, and then in November of 1950 the only remaining grain elevator met the same fate. Fire struck again in 1966 when the recently opened meat processing plant was destroyed by fire.[129]

Stockham's District 50 school building, which was struck by lightning and burned in 1920, was a major loss for the community. Its replacement was built on the same location by the Stoddard Construction Company of Aurora. According to Pfeifer (1990) the one-story brick and stucco "California-type building" was the "only one of its kind in the area" and opened in 1923. In the fall of 1972, "with the approval of the County and State Committees for Reorganization of Schools, District 50 officially closed." [130] The Stockham school building sat vacant for several decades and was recently demolished.

Stockham, Nebraska's Public School (HM09-001).

[1] Baltensperger 1985; Bremer 1967: 9.
[2] Bradford 1979.
[3] The Goodspeed Publishing Company 1890.
[4] Baltensperger 1985: 39.
[5] www.census.gov.
[6] Martis 2001.
[7] Hickey 1992: 92.
[8] Ibid.: 101.
[9] Ibid.: 102.
[10] Bremer 1967; Burr and Buck 1921.
[11] The Goodspeed Publishing Company 1890.
[12] Ibid.
[13] Burr and Buck 1921.
[14] Fitzpatrick 1960.
[15] Andreas 1882; Bremer 1967.
[16] Sun Publishing Company 1890.
[17] Goke and Buckhannan 1927: 2.
[18] Andreas 1882: 945.
[19] Goke and Buckhannan 1927: 1.
[20] Ibid.
[21] Bremer 1967: 20.
[22] The Goodspeed Publishing Company 1890.
[23] Bradford 1979.
[24] Pfeifer 1990.
[25] Bremer 1967.
[26] Goke and Buckhannan 1927: 2.
[27] Ibid.
[28] Bradford 1979:52.
[29] Burr and Buck 1921.
[30] Bradford 1979: 54.
[31] Ibid.
[32] Burr and Buck 1921.
[33] Ibid.: 349.
[34] Sun Publishing Company 1890.
[35] Baltensperger 1985: 163.
[36] USDA 2002.
[37] Baltensperger 1985: 256.
[38] Bremer 1967: 131.
[39] Ibid.
[40] Goke and Buckhannan 1927: 4.
[41] USDA 2002.
[42] Bremer 1967: 131.
[43] Ibid.: 132.
[44] Vanek et al. 1985: 3.
[45] Ibid.
[46] See Baltensperger (1985) for a complete discussion of irrigation in Nebraska.
[47] Ibid.: 2.
[48] Ibid.
[49] Burr and Buck 1921: 439.
[50] Ibid.: 441.
[51] Baltensperger 1985: 60.
[52] Burr and Buck 1921: 500.
[53] Perkey (1982) identifies forty-seven Hamilton County places and towns that are either present or were once locations of note in the county.
[54] Burr and Buck 1921.
[55] Hudson 1985: 90.
[56] Baltensperger 1985: 60.
[57] Burr and Buck 1921: 453.
[58] Ibid.: 480.
[59] Ibid.
[60] Bremer 1967: 63.
[61] Andreas 1882: 949.
[62] Burr and Buck 1921: 450.
[63] Ibid.: 453.
[64] Ibid.: 450.
[65] Bremer 1967.
[66] Burr and Buck 1921: 450.
[67] Bremer 1967.
[68] Bradford 1979: 48.
[69] Bremer 1967.
[70] A portion of the Temple Craft Building collapsed in March of 2009 (*Kearney Hub*). The structure is repairable but its future is in question.
[71] Furse 2004.
[72] Burr and Buck 1921.
[73] Ibid.
[74] Ibid.
[75] Ibid.: 470.
[76] Ibid.
[77] Bradford 1979: 68.
[78] Burr and Buck 1921: 477.
[79] Bremer 1967.
[80] Bradford 1979: 68.
[81] Bradford 1979: 35.
[82] Burr and Buck 1921: 453, 446.
[83] Hooper 1995.
[84] Nelson 1999: 31.
[85] Bremer 1967.
[86] Hooper 1995.
[87] Hamilton County was recently ranked Number 1 in the "Best Counties to Raise a Family" category by *Progressive Farmer* magazine (Patrico 2009). Based on a variety of factors—real estate prices, crime rates, health care, etc.—the county topped the list of the best places to live in rural America.
[88] Bremer 1967.
[89] Sherard 1985: 44.
[90] Fitzpatrick 1960; Sherard 1985.
[91] Bremer 1967.
[92] Burr and Buck 1921.
[93] Ibid.
[94] Fitzpatrick 1960.
[95] Bremer 1967.
[96] Burr and Buck 1921.
[97] Ibid.
[98] Ibid.

[99] Ibid.
[100] Bremer 1967.
[101] Bremer 1967; Dinslage 1992; Fitzpatrick 1960.
[102] Burr and Buck 1921; Dinslage 1992.
[103] Dinslage 1992.
[104] Bremer 1967.
[105] Burr and Buck 1921.
[106] Bradford 1979: 57.
[107] Ibid.
[108] Bremer 1967: 197.
[109] Dinslage 1992.
[110] Ibid.
[111] Bremer 1967: 205.
[112] Bremer 1967; Burr and Buck 1921; Fitzpatrick 1960.
[113] Burr and Buck 1921.
[114] Bremer 1967: 207.

[115] Bremer 1967.
[116] Burr and Buck 1921: 213.
[117] Bremer 1967.
[118] Burr and Buck 1921; Fitzpatrick 1960; The Phillips History Book Committee 2006.
[119] Bremer 1967.
[120] The Phillips History Book Committee 2006.
[121] Bremer 1967.
[122] Ibid.
[123] Burr and Buck 1921.
[124] Ibid.: 485.
[125] Ibid.
[126] Bremer 1967.
[127] Ibid.
[128] Pfeifer 1990.
[129] Ibid.
[130] Pfeifer 1990.

Chapter 2
Survey Results

Objectives

The Nebraska State Historical Society contracted with H. Jason Combs, Anne Bauer, and John Bauer to identify and document historic, architectural, and landscape resources within Hamilton County. The bulk of the survey was completed during the summer of 2008 and additional field work was completed in the fall and winter of 2008-2009. This project builds on the previous field survey efforts undertaken in 1984. Furthermore, the reconnaissance survey verified the location and evaluated the current condition of the 546 previously surveyed resources and identified additional sites/structures that meet the Nebraska Historic Building Survey (NeHBS) standards. The survey also examined the integrity and significance of each previously and newly surveyed property for its potential eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Methodology

Prior to and during the field work period, repositories including the Nebraska State Historical Society, the Love Library at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the Calvin T. Ryan Library at the University of Nebraska-Kearney, the Alice M. Farr Library and the Plainsman Museum in Aurora were visited to acquire background and specific information on Hamilton County and its communities. Additional information about previously surveyed properties came from site files, survey cards, held by the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office.

Most of the survey was carried out during July and August 2008. Every public road and street in Hamilton County was traversed to insure a complete inventory. Survey members were careful to not trespass on private property, and as a result, properties that could not be viewed or photographed from the public-right-of-way were not included. A number of properties were totally obscured by dense wind breaks and are not part of the survey results. Field staff identified and surveyed those properties that met the following evaluation criteria outlined in the NeHBS manual. A property must be at least forty years old, retain its physical integrity, and be situated in its original location. NeHBS staff stipulated that forty years be used rather than fifty due to the time span between surveys.

In order to retain integrity, a property must possess many original features and characteristics: size and scale, building materials, and stylistic elements. In essence, properties must retain a high degree of their original architectural character. Integrity is affected in cases where original building materials and features such as doors, porches, or windows have been removed or altered. Modern materials including permastone, aluminum or vinyl siding and recent structural additions that obscure historic materials and features also negatively impact integrity. Standards of integrity are more rigorously applied to

houses than to other property types due to their numerical advantage in the survey.

Farmsteads and building complexes were evaluated in their entirety. If the primary building (house and/or barn) did not retain integrity, then associated buildings were not surveyed. Abandoned buildings were surveyed if they dated to the 19th century, represented a unique property type, or possessed construction materials that are indigenous to the survey area. In regard to commercial buildings, first-floor minor alterations are recognized as fairly common and did not exclude a commercial building from being surveyed.

For newly surveyed properties, basic identifying information and architectural descriptions were recorded into the NeHBS digital database. The property was further documented with two black-and-white photographs as well as with color digital images. The property was given a unique NeHBS survey number and its location mapped. These properties were documented according to the NeHBS manual including the historic context and property type codes developed by NeSHPO. Previously surveyed properties were reevaluated for condition and integrity. Information in the NeHBS database and on prior survey cards was updated and a new photograph taken. Digital images were also captured for resurveyed properties.

Limitations and biases of the survey include evaluation of only those properties and resources identifiable from the public right-of-way and not obscured by foliage or other obstructions. Field staff noticed an increase in the amount of foliage and vegetation when compared with the previous Hamilton County survey in 1984.

National Register of Historic Places

Properties were evaluated for their potential eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The NRHP is the official federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. To be eligible for the National Register a property must be at least fifty years old and possess historic significance and integrity.

Historic significance is recognized and categorized under any of the following four criteria established by the National Park Service:

- *Criterion A.* The property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

- *Criterion B.* The property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

- *Criterion C.* The property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

- *Criterion D.* The property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history (primarily applied to archaeological sites).

Certain property types are not usually considered for listing in the National Register: religious properties, moved properties, birthplaces and graves, cemeteries, reconstructed properties, commemorative properties, and properties achieving significance within the past fifty years. However, these properties may be eligible if any of the following criteria considerations apply:

- Religious properties deriving significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance.

- Moved properties significant for their architectural value or that are the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event.

- Birthplaces or grave sites of historical figures of outstanding importance if there are no other appropriate sites or buildings directly associated with that person.

- Cemeteries that derive their significance from graves of people of outstanding importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events.

- Reconstructed buildings that are accurately executed in an appropriate environment when no other building or structure with the same association has survived.

- Commemorative properties whose design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has imbued it with its own significance.

- Properties that have achieved significance within the past fifty years if they are of exceptional importance.

Integrity, as defined by the National Park Service, is the authenticity of a property's historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property's historic period. Seven qualities help to evaluate the integrity of a property:

- *Location:* the place where the historic property was built or where the historic event occurred.

- *Design:* the shape, size, plan, structure, and style of the property.

- *Setting:* the physical environment surrounding the historic property.

- *Materials:* the building materials that were used to construct the property.

- *Workmanship:* the evidence of the crafts, techniques and skills of a particular culture or people used to create the property.

- *Feeling:* the property's expression of its historic sense of a particular period of time.

- *Association:* the direct link between an important historic event or person and the historic property.

The history of Hamilton County, NeHBS survey results, and NHRP recommendations are compiled to form this survey report. Additional products produced by this project and submitted to NeSHPO include black and white negatives, photograph contact sheets, maps, site plans, research files, and color digital images for

all surveyed properties. Survey material has been incorporated into a Geographic Information System (GIS) maintained by the Nebraska State Historical Society.

Survey Results

The 2008-2009 Hamilton County survey documented 729 properties. The 1984 surveyed identified 546 properties, of which 279 were resurveyed (Table 4). Hamilton County's survey database contains 463 "active" properties, which includes 183 newly surveyed properties. Aurora accounts for 252 properties, while the rural areas possess 133 survey entries. The remaining eight communities contain a total of seventy-eight surveyed properties.

Of the 266 properties not resurveyed, 95 (36%) were non-extant, 93 (35%) had modern siding, and 78 (29%) had major additions and/or alterations (Table 5).

Non-extant structure originally located in Giltner (HM02-008).

Numerous properties are no longer extant: from a small one-story house in Giltner (HM02-008) to the recent arson and demolition of the Royal Highlanders Building (HM01-002) in Aurora. Additionally, a substantial number of properties have been altered—some nearly beyond recognition—which resulted in the loss of integrity and removal from the surveyed property list.

Table 4. Number of Properties Surveyed and Resurveyed by Geographical Division.

Division	Originally Surveyed	Resurveyed	Not Resurveyed	Added	Total Active
Rural (HM00)	113	55	58	78	133
Aurora (HM01)	294	165	129	87	252
Giltner (HM02)	20	5	15	3	8
Hampton (HM03)	33	14	19	7	21
Hordville (HM04)	20	15	5	3	18
Kronborg (HM05)	5	2	3	1	3
Marquette (HM06)	30	13	17	2	15
Murphy (HM07)	1	1	0	0	1
Phillips (HM08)	17	7	10	1	8
Stockham (HM09)	13	3	10	1	4
Total	**546***	**279**	**266****	**183**	**463**

*The original survey had two properties listed twice (HM00-033 and HM00-113, and HM01-239 and HM01-293).

**Three rural cemeteries were previously given survey numbers but were not listed on the maps; therefore, they were surveyed again as new properties (HM00-104 and HM00-134, HM00-105 and HM00-131, and HM00-109 and HM00-128). Likewise, two Aurora properties were not shown on survey maps—HM01-270 was resurveyed as HM01-331 and HM01-082 was surveyed again as HM01-339.

Table 5. Properties Not Resurveyed by Geographical Division and Category.

Division	Not Resurveyed	Condition*	Non-Extant/ Demolished	Siding
Rural (HM00)	58	9	31	18
Aurora (HM01)	129	50	32	47
Giltner (HM02)	15	2	8	5
Hampton (HM03)	19	4	6	9
Hordville (HM04)	5	0	0	5
Kronborg (HM05)	3	3	0	0
Marquette (HM06)	17	4	6	7
Murphy (HM07)	0	0	0	0
Phillips (HM08)	10	6	2	2
Stockham (HM09)	10	0	10	0
Total	**266**	**78**	**95**	**93**

*Includes major addition and alterations.

Royal Highlanders Building, circa 1910 (HM01-002). Courtesy of the Nebraska State Historical Society.

Royal Highlanders (Fidelity Building) prior to arson, July 2008.

The non-resurveyed properties were dismissed for three general reasons: condition, no longer extant, and siding (Table 5). Hamilton County had 58 not resurveyed rural properties and the nine communities account for the other 208 non-resurveyed properties. There is a significant difference between the rural areas and the communities as to the reason why properties were not resurveyed. More than half (53.5%) of the not resurveyed rural properties were non-extant, 31% had been sided, and only 15.5% were removed for

condition issues. On the other hand, 75 (36.1%) of the 208 non-resurveyed community properties had been sided, 33.2% were dismissed for condition issues, and only 30.8% had been demolished. The rural sections had a much higher rate of non-extant properties (53.5% to 30.8%), while the communities had a higher rate of properties not resurveyed based on condition issues (33.2% to 15.5%).

The differences between the rural areas and the communities are primarily related to agriculture. Hamilton County's economic base is dominated by agriculture, which has greatly altered the nature of rural structures and limited the number of properties eligible for the survey. For example, in the 1920s a typical farmstead included a "farmhouse, barns, poultry houses, and a few minor buildings."[131] However, farm consolidation and large-scale mechanization has reduced the number of farmsteads in the county.

Great Plains scholar Bradley Baltensperger (1985) noted several years ago that farm specialization made "sprawling farmsteads" obsolete and that the "general-purpose barn has considerably less utility on the modern specialized farm."[132] Many older farmhouses have been replaced by modern, one-level housing, and since the 1950s the ranch house has "dominated rural house construction in Nebraska."[133] The agricultural impacts to rural housing found throughout Nebraska have been exacerbated in Hamilton County due to center pivot irrigation. Many former farmsteads and outbuildings have been razed to make way for large-scale irrigation pivots.

Illustrated Discussion of Significant Historic Contexts

The Hamilton County survey identified several properties that demonstrate the historic contexts of the NeHBS manual and the NeSHPO. This survey identified ten significant historical contexts which provide an outline of various themes of Nebraska's history. Each is briefly discussed and representative properties are illustrated. A list of potentially eligible properties associated with these contexts is found in Chapter 3.

Agriculture

Agriculture refers to grain and livestock production and a significant number of surveyed properties fall into this category. Rural farmsteads contain varyious types of outbuildings, including frame barns, hog facilities, Quonsets, and silos.

Quonset in the Stockham vicinity (HM00-140).

Barn with decorative cupola near Kronborg (HM00-062).

Association

Resources identified in this context refer to those used for interaction based on membership or affiliation with institutions and organizations. Properties that fit this description include fraternal meeting halls and social organizations like the Masons and the International Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF). Only a handful of these structures remain in Hamilton County and many are located near the square in Aurora—one remaining example is the Temple Craft Building (HM01-186).

Temple Craft Building, Aurora (HM01-186).

Commerce

The historic context of commerce is affiliated with the buying and selling of goods, whether retail or wholesale. Commercial buildings were the primary resource type found in the survey. These properties include frame buildings and masonry structures located in commercial districts found in several Hamilton County communities. Also within this context are considered grain cooperatives and their elevators as wholesale grain dealers.

Commercial Building, Hampton (HM03-014).

Communication

The communication context applies to resources relating to the transfer of information from person to person or from point to point. This might include anything from the early telegraph to modern telephone, television, and radio facilities. In Hamilton County, the survey identified the KRGI radio building (HM00-191) and a brick building associated with AT&T transcontinental line (HM00-186).

KRGI Radio Building (HM00-191).

Education

The education context relates to the act or process of imparting or acquiring knowledge. The survey identified several public schools in Hamilton County

communities. However, many of the older school buildings have been razed in recent years (Aurora, Phillips, and Stockham) and no one-room school buildings were located in the county's rural areas.

Relocated Fairview School, Plainsman Museum Complex, Aurora (HM01-283).

Government

This historic context relates to the act or process of governing and includes the organization and machinery through which a government debates decisions and delivers services. The survey identified several government structures, the most imposing is Hamilton County's courthouse in Aurora (HM01-001). Others include Aurora's post office (HM01-169) and former Carnegie Library (HM01-207).

Post Office, Aurora (HM01-169).

Carnegie Library, Aurora (HM01-207).

Religion

The religion context reflects a formal and institutional belief and exercise of faith. Religious property types located during the survey are mainly cemeteries and churches. Many of the churches surveyed are substantial brick or masonry structures and exhibit a variety of architectural styles. Religious properties must meet a special set of criteria for inclusion on the National Register. Eligibility is based on their primary significance from architectural distinction and/or historical importance, and not on the merits of a particular doctrine or faith.

Faith Baptist Church, Marquette (HM06-010).

Baptist Church, Hordville (HM04-010).

Services

The services context refers to support services typically provided or regulated by the government—for instance, banks and utilities. Examples include the First Securities Building (HM01-200), the Aurora Bank Building (HM01-190), and the Farmers Telephone Association Building all in Aurora (HM01-205) and several municipal water towers (HM04-021, HM06-031, and HM08-018).

Marquette, Nebraska's Water Tower (HM06-031).

Settlement/Architecture

The settlement context relates to the division, acquisition, and development of the land. During Hamilton County's initial settlement sod construction was common. At one time many sod houses dotted the landscape. An 1888 atlas of Hamilton County indicates that over 200 sod houses were present at that time. By the 1920s, few sod houses remained and most had been replaced with more substantial frame houses.[134] During the 2008 reconnaissance survey no sod buildings were identified.[135]

Today, the primary historical resources associated with the settlement context are houses located in Hamilton County's communities. Buildings and houses constructed after the initial settlement phase resemble national trends in style and materials.[136] Hamilton County's population surged in the late 1800s and early 1900s and a large portion of its current housing stock is pre-World War II, which is somewhat typical for agricultural areas with declining populations (Table 6).[137] These houses encompass many architectural styles, of which several are highlighted in the following discussion.

Table 6. Hamilton County Housing Units by Year Built.

Year Built	Housing Units	Percent of 2000 Total
1999-March 2000	86	2.2
1995-1998	252	6.5
1990-1994	201	5.2
1980-1989	380	9.9
1970-1979	731	19.0
1960-1969	414	10.8
1940-1959	397	10.3
Prior to 1939	1,389	36.1

Source: www.census.gov.

American Foursquare. Popularized by mail order catalogues (Aladdin, Montgomery Ward, and Sears), the American Foursquare residence was prevalent from 1900 to 1930 and is typically two stories in height and features a nearly square floor plan.

American Foursquare house in rural Hamilton County (HM00-162).

Bungalow. Bungalow is more an architectural form than a style that became popular in Nebraska between 1910 and 1940. Characterized as an economical dwelling with simple lines, the bungalow typically rises one to one-and-one-half stories in height and features a wide, low-pitched projecting roof which often has a dormer. Bungalow roofs often contain exposed rafters and façade-length porches. A variety of porch supports are used, although battered piers and tapered columns are seen most frequently. Clapboard siding is common as are brick and stucco exteriors. Woodwork, including carved knee braces and brackets, tends to be plain but solid.

Bungalow house in Aurora (HM01-022).

Colonial Revival. Developed at the turn of the 20th century, the style is based on a revived interest in the past designs of both the Georgian and Federal styles. Colonial characteristics include large porches, gables, pediments, and dentils—these elements were incorporated into Queen Anne structures, making them more "modern" while focusing on past styles. Some examples feature more formal applications of the motifs and these homes are more symmetrical than their Georgian and Federal predecessors.

Colonial Revival House in Aurora (HM01-368).

Italianate. Generally two or three stories in height, Italianate residences often feature decorative elements including

brackets under the eaves and window hoods. Porches are commonly single-story in height with squared or beveled posts with capitals and/or brackets.

Italianate house in Aurora (HM01-049).

Period Revival. The period revival style ranges in time from the early 1900s to the 1940s and is based on past motifs and styles. Architects and builders combined a variety of elements in order to offer individual interpretation and style. In turn, this allowed architects and builders to demonstrate their versatility and attract prospective clients. Period revival includes Tudor, Dutch Colonial, and Spanish Colonial.

Dutch Colonial Revival house near Marquette (HM00-183).

Queen Anne. This architectural style dates to the late Victorian era and is characterized by an irregular plan which is often evident in its asymmetrical walls. A combination of building materials ranging from shingles to clapboard to brick may be utilized on a structure. Typical details include bays, balconies, towers, turrets, large porches, and decorative patterns such as fish-scale and diamond shingles. Leaded and/or stained glass windows are often present.

Queen Anne house in Aurora (HM01-017).

Ranch. The ranch style emerged after World War II. In the 1940s, West Coast architects formalized the ranch style. Primary elements of the style incorporated the outdoors with interior living as the entire property is to be utilized for living space—achieved through patios, pools, barbeques, gardens, and landscaping. During inclement weather, large porches, sunrooms, and canopied walkways provide protected outdoor space. There are a number of vernacular ranch houses in Hamilton County, but few notable examples exist.

Ranch style house in Aurora (HM01-335).

Vernacular. This term refers to buildings without a distinct architectural style as a result of minimal ornamentation or elements that are attributable to a distinct style. Vernacular buildings are often identified by their roof form—cross-gable, front-gable, side-gable, hip, and pyramid.

Vernacular house in Hordville (HM04-020).

Transportation

The transportation context includes resources used to move people and goods. The survey identified features associated with road and rail networks. Road-related structures include bridges (HM00-159), a service station (HM01-378), and an early automotive repair shop (HM01-376). Railroad-related structures include several

bridges (HM00-164 and HM00-168) and an anhydrous ammonia storage facility (HM00-194). This large spherical structure can hold approximately 60 freight carloads of fertilizer.[138]

Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) Shop, Aurora (HM01-345).

Phillips 66 anhydrous ammonia plant, near Aurora (HM00-194).

[131] Goke and Buckhannan 1927: 4.
[132] Baltensperger 1985: 204, 208.
[133] Ibid.: 202.
[134] Burr and Buck 1921: 501.

[135] See Welsch (1969; 1991) for complete discussions of sod houses in Nebraska.
[136] Baltensperger 1985; Colton 2006.
[137] Baltensperger 1985.
[138] Bremer 1979.

Chapter 3
Recommendations

Recommendations

In addition to recording historic resources for inclusion in the NeHBS inventory, the reconnaissance survey also identified properties that are potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The National Register is considered the "Nation's List" of historically, architecturally, and culturally significant resources. There are currently five (5) properties in Hamilton County listed on the National Register.

- Hamilton County Courthouse, Aurora (HM01-001)
- Streeter-Peterson House, Aurora (HM01-076)
- United Brethren Church, Aurora (HM01-168)
- IOOF Opera House, Hampton (HM03-012)
- St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kronborg (HM05-001)

During the course of the reconnaissance survey, forty-four (44) individual properties were identified as potentially eligible for the NRHP (Table 8). These evaluations were based primarily on a property's architectural character and integrity as determined from survey observations. In general, the limited nature of a reconnaissance survey only allows for evaluation based on architectural significance under Criterion C, as described in Chapter 2. Additional in-depth research is required to assess potential eligibility under other criteria; however, in the course of researching Hamilton County's history, one (1) of the properties listed below (Zion Lutheran Church, HM00-045) has been identified as potentially eligible for its historical significance also. The historical basis for that assessment is described in greater detail later.

Recommendations made within this reconnaissance survey do not constitute eligibility for inclusion the National Register. The Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office also reviews recommended properties before the listing process is formally pursued.

Those individual properties recommended as potentially eligible are listed by NeHBS site number and illustrated according to their NeHBS historic context.

Table 8. Individual Properties Considered Potentially Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

NeHBS Site Number	Resource Name	NeHBS Historic Context	National Register Area of Significance
RURAL (8 Properties)			
HM00-013	Farmstead with arched roof barn	Agriculture	Agriculture
HM00-045	Evangelical Lutheran Church	Religion	Social History
HM00-069	Farmstead with gambrel roof barn	Agriculture	Agriculture
HM00-085	Italianate farmhouse	Architecture	Architecture
HM00-090	Farmstead with gable ell house	Agriculture	Agriculture
HM00-150	Bungalow farmhouse	Architecture	Architecture

HM00-168	Wooden truss railroad bridge	Transportation	Transportation
HM00-176	Farmstead with vernacular house	Agriculture	Agriculture
AURORA (28 Properties)			
HM01-004	Italianate house	Architecture	Architecture
HM01-006	American Foursquare house	Architecture	Architecture
HM01-013	First Christian Church	Religion	Architecture
HM01-017	Queen Anne house	Architecture	Architecture
HM01-018	Craftsman house	Architecture	Architecture
HM01-034	Presbyterian Church	Religion	Architecture
HM01-043	Congregational Church	Religion	Architecture
HM01-049	Italianate house	Architecture	Architecture
HM01-063	Spanish Colonial Revival house	Architecture	Architecture
HM01-072	Prairie house with porte cochere	Architecture	Architecture
HM01-075	American Foursquare house	Architecture	Architecture
HM01-079	American Foursquare with porte cochere	Architecture	Architecture
HM01-094	Queen Anne house	Architecture	Architecture
HM01-111	American Foursquare house	Architecture	Architecture
HM01-113	Queen Anne house	Architecture	Architecture
HM01-114	Craftsman house	Architecture	Architecture
HM01-115	Tudor Revival house	Architecture	Architecture
HM01-118	Prairie house	Architecture	Architecture
HM01-119	Craftsman house	Architecture	Architecture
HM01-145	Craftsman house	Architecture	Architecture
HM01-169	Aurora Post Office	Government	Architecture
HM01-172	Craftsman house	Architecture	Architecture
HM01-190	Aurora Bank	Services	Architecture
HM01-200	First Securities Corporation	Services	Architecture
HM01-207	Carnegie Library	Government	Education
HM01-335	Ranch house	Architecture	Architecture
HM01-368	Colonial Revival house	Architecture	Architecture
HM01-376	Wortman Motor Company	Transportation	Architecture
HAMPTON (3 Properties)			
HM03-019	Hampton Auditorium	Diversion	Architecture
HM03-031	Queen Anne house	Architecture	Architecture
HM03-035	Craftsman house	Architecture	Architecture
HORDVILLE (2 Properties)			
HM04-002	Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church	Religion	Architecture
HM04-011	Hordville Bank	Services	Architecture
MARQUETTE (2 Properties)			
HM06-004	Marquette Bank	Services	Architecture
HM06-010	Faith Baptist Church	Religion	Architecture
PHILLIPS (1 Property)			
HM08-008	Phillips Grain Co. Elevator	Agriculture	Architecture

AGRICULTURE:

HM00-013: Farmstead with Gothic arch barn near Aurora

HM00-176: Reyner farmstead near Marquette

HM00-069: Farmstead with gambrel barn near Hordville

HM08-008: Grain elevator in Phillips

ARCHITECTURE:

HM00-090: Farmstead with gable ell house near Giltner

HM00-85: Italianate farmhouse near Giltner

HM00-150: Bungalow farmhouse near Giltner

HM01-017: Queen Anne house in Aurora

HM01-004: Italianate house in Aurora

HM01-018: Craftsman house in Aurora

HM01-006: American Foursquare house in Aurora

HM01-049: Italianate house in Aurora

HM01-063: Spanish Colonial Revival house in Aurora

HM01-079: American Foursquare house with porte cochere in Aurora

HM01-072: Prairie house with porte cochere in Aurora

HM01-094: Queen Anne house in Aurora

HM01-075: American Foursquare house in Aurora

HM01-111: American Foursquare house in Aurora

HM01-113: Queen Anne house in Aurora

HM01-118: Prairie house in Aurora

HM01-114: Craftsman house in Aurora

HM01-119: Craftsman house in Aurora

HM01-115: Tudor Revival house in Aurora

HM01-145: Craftsman house in Aurora

HM01-172: Craftsman house in Aurora

HM03-031: Queen Anne house in Hampton

HM01-335: Ranch house in Aurora

HM03-035: Craftsman house in Hampton

DIVERSION:

HM01-368: Colonial Revival house in Aurora

HM03-019: Hampton Auditorium

GOVERNMENT:

HM01-169: Post Office in Aurora

HM01-013: First Christian Church in Aurora

HM01-207: Carnegie Library in Aurora

HM01-034: Presbyterian Church in Aurora

RELIGION:

HM00-045: Zion Lutheran Church near Hampton

HM01-043: Congregational Church in Aurora

HM04-002: Swedish Evangelical Church in Hordville

HM01-200: First Securities Building in Aurora

HM06-010: Faith Baptist Church in Marquette

HM04-011: Bank in Hordville

SERVICES:

HM01-190: Aurora Bank

HM06-004: Bank in Marquette

TRANSPORTATION:

HM00-168: Wood truss railroad bridge near Marquette

HM01-376: Wortman Motor Company in Aurora

Zion Lutheran Church

After the United States entered World War I in 1917 a "wave of intolerance of anything and everything German swept over the country."[139] In Nebraska, a series of suppression laws were enacted and Hamilton County's Zion Lutheran Church near Hampton, Nebraska played a central role in the controversy (HM00-045).

Zion Lutheran Church (HM00-045).

During World War I many ethnic groups—Hutterites, Lutherans, and Mennonites, for example—were targeted by laws that suppressed the use of native languages in churches and schools. In Nebraska's case, anti-German sentiment had been aroused when a number of Nebraskans of German origin spoke out against America's involvement in the conflict. One of the first acts was to organize the State Council of Defense in 1917. Many of these councils—most states had councils of defense—performed "valuable war work while others became bands of patriotic

vigilantes."[140] In Nebraska, the "State Council of Defense was one of the most active and influential of the several commissions established in the plains states. Its activities were guided by men who were thoroughly imbued with superpatriotic sentiments."[141]

A primary objective of most anti-German groups was to suppress the German language most extensively used in "numerous Lutheran churches and undoubtedly in many parochial schools."[142] In some cases entire towns attempted to ban foreign languages on the streets and any public forums—Campbell, Nebraska tried to enact such legislation. In 1918, the State Council of Defense put forth a resolution banning all foreign languages in schools—public and parochial (Nebraska State Council of Defense 1918). The following year the state legislature felt that "steps should be taken to prevent any future exposure of children to alien doctrines" and the real reason for the legislation was to "prevent the teaching of German."[143]

Nebraska Governor McKelvie signed the Siman bill into law on April 9, 1919 which made it a misdemeanor to teach "any subject to any person in any language other than the English language . . . in any private, denominational, parochial or public school." This restriction applied only to the first eight grades and the penalty for teaching a foreign language was punishable by fines ranging from $25 to $100 or by jail time not to exceed thirty days.[144]

Immediately after the legislation passed a number of churches and parents brought suits against it in various district courts.[145]

The Nebraska State Supreme Court upheld the law, but the justices "fearful perhaps of constitutional objections . . . added that the law did not prevent instruction of or in foreign languages outside regular school hours."[146]

Robert Meyer, who taught at Zion Lutheran Parochial School, was arrested by Hamilton County authorities for teaching German to students in the spring of 1920. The Zion Lutheran Church had arranged its schedule to allow Meyer thirty minutes of religious instruction in German between 1:00 and 1:30. On May 25, 1920 the county attorney "appeared at the school while Raymond Parpart, a youngster in the fourth grade, was reading aloud in German the Old Testament story of Jacob's Ladder." Days later Meyer was charged with violating the Siman Act and fined $25. Meyer refused to pay and church officials supported his appeal, contending that the instruction had occurred in non-school hours between 1:00 and 1:30.[147]

Zion Lutheran Parochial School (HM00-045).

In February 1922, the Nebraska Supreme Court upheld the lower's court decision, voting four to two against Meyer.[148] The case was then appealed to the United States Supreme Court.[149] The U. S. Supreme Court delivered its opinion on June 4, 1923 and reversed the Nebraska decision, declaring Nebraska's law unconstitutional and noting that children are not chattels of the state when it comes to education. Great Plains scholar Donald Bradford (1979) contends that this decision is the "cornerstone of the private and public school bilingual decisions" and that Robert Meyer "should perhaps have a statue in the Aurora community square as a reminder that the beautiful tradition of the ethnic minorities in the vicinity is one to be generally cherished and fostered."[150] Even though the prohibition on instruction in a foreign language was struck down by the United States Supreme Court in Meyer v. Nebraska "anti-German sentiment induced many Germans to downplay their heritage."[151] As a result, many "immigrants changed the spelling and/or pronunciation of their names" and in certain cases towns changed their names—Germantown and Berlin became Garland and Otoe—in an effort to "minimize German visibility on the landscape."[152]

Many others states (Colorado, Iowa, Ohio, Texas, etc.) enacted suppression laws; however, Nebraska's language law "gained broader significance because it was ultimately declared unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court in 1923."[153] Nebraska's case formed the central basis for appeals and decisions of other Supreme Court cases involving language issues over the next decade.

Evaluation of Potentially Eligible Historic Districts

In addition to identifying individual properties that are potentially eligible for the NRHP, the survey evaluated concentrations of historic properties for their cohesiveness as potential historic districts. While the criteria for a property to be included in an historic district are not as stringent as achieving National Register listing individually, the property still must contribute to the overall historic integrity of the district. Such properties are considered contributing properties. Those properties that lack architectural significance and integrity, but are within the boundaries of an historic district are deemed non-contributing. By definition an historic district must contain more contributing than non-contributing properties. The architectural cohesiveness of a residential historic district is best conveyed when three-quarters of its properties are contributing. Two areas that were subjected to this scrutiny was Aurora's downtown commercial district surrounding the courthouse square and a residential area west of the square.

Courthouse Square Commercial District Evaluation

The reconnaissance survey identified twenty-four commercial properties for inclusion in the NeHBS that face the courthouse square. This constitutes roughly 50 percent of the 48-50 properties on the square. Only one historic property still anchors the four corners opposite the square. The loss of the landmark Royal Highlanders Building (HM01-002) also leaves a large hole in the northeast portion of the square.

The distribution and integrity of the twenty-four surveyed properties varies around the square. The greatest density of historic properties lies on the west and north sides of the square, on 12th St and M St, respectively, accounting for 50 percent or more of the frontage. The south side (on L St) contains less than 50 percent while the east side (on 13th St) is significantly less than 50 percent. Because each commercial property was evaluated on its own architectural merit, a handful of surveyed properties are third generation, mid-century commercial buildings. Also, because commercial storefronts change frequently to reflect retail needs, the integrity of second story façade often weighed more heavily than storefront alterations. This has led to a variety of modern storefront treatments being included in the survey. Overall, the variety of building styles and storefront treatments taken together with the non-contributing and non-extant landmarks precludes the courthouse square from becoming an historic district.

Residential Historic District Evaluation

Evaluation of a potential residential historic district began by examining the distribution of the residential properties individually recommended potentially eligible for the NRHP. While they are broadly dispersed in the western part of Aurora, a cluster does appear in a two block area. Nine potentially eligible properties and one National Register property are situated on the 1100 and 1200 blocks of Eighth and Ninth Streets and the 800 block of N Street.

An additional four properties within this area surveyed in the NeHBS and contribute to the district's architectural character. Approximately eight properties within the bounds would be considered non-contributing. An historic district with such a boundary would then consist of 14 contributing (64 percent) and 8 non-contributing (36 percent) properties. With a few exceptions the area is characterized by large, tree-lined lots and two-story homes dating to approximately 1900-1930. Another four recommended properties are found within a one block radius and a more in-depth analysis of the properties would be necessary to study alternate district boundaries.

Other small clusters of properties included in the NeHBS are evident throughout Aurora, but they are restricted to a single block (eg. 1200 block of Tenth St; 1300 block of Eleventh St; 1300 and 1400 blocks of Ninth).

[139] Rodgers 1958: 1.
[140] Ibid.: 4.
[141] Luebke 1980: 7.
[142] Rodgers 1958: 6.
[143] Ibid.: 10.
[144] *Laws of Nebraska* 1919.
[145] *Nebraska District of Evangelical Lutheran Synod v. McKelvie* 1919.
[146] Luebke 1980: 13.
[147] Meyer v. Nebraska 1922.
[148] Ibid.

[149] Meyer v. Nebraska 1923. The Siman Act was replaced by the more stringent Reed-Norval Act on April 14, 1921. This act forbid foreign language instruction at all times thus closing the Siman Act's perceived loophole of instruction during "non-school hours."
[150] Bradford 1979: 65.
[151] Baltensperger 1985: 83.
[152] Ibid.
[153] Luebke 1980: 12.

Chapter 4
Preservation in Nebraska

Preservation in Nebraska

Throughout much of Nebraska's history, preservation was the province of dedicated individuals and organizations working alone in local communities. However, since the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the governor of each state has been required to appoint a State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to oversee preservation efforts. In Nebraska, the Director of the Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) serves as SHPO. Staff of the NSHS Historic Preservation Division forms the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (NeSHPO).

The NeSHPO administers a wide range of preservation programs. The duties of the NeSHPO relating to programs called for by the National Historic Preservation Act include the following:

- Conducting and maintaining a statewide historic building survey.

- Administering the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) program.

- Assisting local governments in the development of historic preservation programs and certification of qualifying governments.

- Administering a federal tax incentives program for the preservation of historic buildings.

- Assisting federal agencies in their responsibility to identify and protect historic properties that may be affected by their projects.

- Providing preservation education, training, and technical assistance to individuals and groups and local, state, and federal agencies.

What follows is a brief discussion of NeSHPO programs, followed by a staff guide with contact information. Though described individually, it is important to note that NeSHPO programs often act in concert with other programs and should be considered elements of the NeSHPO mission and a part of the overall mission of the NSHS.

Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey

The Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey (NeHBS) began in 1974. The survey is conducted on a county-by-county basis and currently includes in excess of 72,000 properties that reflect Nebraska's rich architectural and historic heritage. The survey is conducted by researchers who drive every rural and urban public road in a county and record each property that meets certain historic requirements. Surveyors do not enter private property without permission. In addition to this fieldwork, surveyors research the area's history to better understand the region. The NeHBS often includes thematic or statewide subjects that may be unique to a certain location, such as a specific structure or type of industry.

The purpose of the NeHBS is to help local preservation advocates, elected officials, land-use planners, economic development coordinators, and tourism promoters understand the value of historic properties in their communities. Properties included in the survey have no use restrictions placed on them and survey inclusion does not require any type of special maintenance. Rather, the survey provides a foundation for identifying properties that may be worthy of preservation, promotion, and recognition within a community.

The NeHBS provides a basis for preservation and planning at all levels of government and for individual groups or citizens. The survey normally includes properties that convey a sense of architectural significance. When possible and known, NeHBS also describes properties that have historical significance. The survey is not intended to be a comprehensive history of a county, but a detailed examination of historic properties. Additionally, as the NeHBS is in part federally funded, the NeSHPO must use federal guidelines when evaluating and identifying historic properties. The NeHBS is not the end result, but a starting point for public planners and individuals who value their community's history.

For more information, please call the Survey Coordinator listed in Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office Contacts.

National Register of Historic Places

One of the goals of the NeHBS is to help identify properties that may be eligible for listing in the National Register. The National Register is our nation's official list of significant historic properties. Created by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register includes buildings, structures, districts, objects, and sites that are significant in our history or prehistory. These properties and objects may reflect a historically significant pattern, event, person, architectural style, or archaeological site. National Register properties may be significant at the local-, state-, or national-levels.

Properties need not be as historic as Fort Robinson or architecturally spectacular as the Nebraska State Capitol to be listed in the National Register. Local properties that retain their physical integrity and convey local historic significance may also be listed. It is important to note what listing a property in the National Register means, or perhaps more importantly does not mean. The National Register DOES NOT:

- Restrict, in any way, a private property owner's ability to alter, manage or dispose of a property.

- Require that properties be maintained, repaired, or restored.

- Invoke special zoning or local landmark designation.

- Allow the listing of an individual private property over an owner's objection.

- Allow the listing or an historic district over a majority of property owners' objections.

Listing a property in the National Register DOES:

- Provide prestigious recognition to significant properties.

- Encourage the preservation of historic properties.

- Provide information about historic properties for local and statewide planning purposes.

- Promote community development, tourism, and economic development.

- Provide basic eligibility for financial incentives, when available.

For more information, call the National Register Coordinator listed in Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office Contacts.

Certified Local Governments

An important objective of the NeSHPO is to translate the federal preservation program, as embodied by the National Historic Preservation Act, to the local-level. One element of this goal is to link local governments with a nationwide network of federal, state, and local organizations. One of the most effective tools for this purpose is the Certified Local Government (CLG) program. A CLG is a local government, either a county or municipality that has adopted preservation as a priority. To become a CLG a local government must:

- Establish a preservation ordinance that includes protection for historic properties at a level the community decides is appropriate.

- Promote preservation education and outreach.

- Conduct and maintain some level of a historic building survey.

- Establish a mechanism to designate local landmarks.

- Create a preservation commission to oversee the preservation ordinance and the CLG program.

The advantages of achieving CLG status include:

- A CLG is eligible to receive matching funds from the NeSHPO that are unavailable to non-CLGs.

- Contributing buildings within local landmark districts may be eligible for preservation tax incentives without being listed in the National Register.

- Through the use of their landmark and survey programs, CLGs have an additional tool when considering planning, zoning, and land-use regulations relating to historic properties.

- CLGs have the ability to monitor and preserve structures that reflect the community's heritage.

- CLGs have access to a nationwide information network of local, state, federal, and private preservation institutions.

- Finally, a CLG through its ordinance and commission has a built-in mechanism to promote pride in, and understanding of, a community's history.

Certification of a local government for CLG status comes from the NeSHPO and the National Park Service, and there are general rules to follow. A community

considering CLG status is given broad flexibility with those guidelines when structuring its CLG program. The emphasis of the CLG program is local management of historic properties with technical and grants assistance from the NeSHPO.

Preservation Tax Incentives

Since 1976 the Internal Revenue Code has contained provisions offering tax credits for the certified rehabilitation of income-producing historic properties. Historic properties are defined as those listed in the National Register, or as buildings that contribute to the significance of a National Register or a local landmark/historic district. An income-producing property may be a rental residential, office, commercial, or industrial property. Historic working barns or other agricultural outbuildings may also qualify.

A certified rehabilitation is one that conforms to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The standards are a common sense approach to the adaptive reuse of historic buildings. It is important to remember that this program promotes the rehabilitation of historic properties so that they may be used to the benefit and enjoyment of the property owner and the community. The program is not necessarily intended to reconstruct or restore historic buildings to exact/original specifications.

The tax incentive program in Nebraska has been responsible for:

- Reinvesting millions of dollars for the preservation of historic buildings.

- Establishing thousands of low- and moderate-income housing units and upper-income units.

- Encouraging the adaptive reuse of previously under or unutilized historic properties in older downtown commercial areas.

- Helping to broaden the tax base.

- Giving real estate developers and city planners the incentive to consider projects in older, historic neighborhoods.

- Helping stabilize older, historic neighborhoods.

Certification of the historic character of the income-producing property—usually be listing the property in the National Register—and certification of the historic rehabilitation is made by both the NeSHPO and the National Park Service. Before initiating any activity for a project that anticipates the use of preservation tax credits, owners should contact the NeSHPO and a professional tax advisor, legal counsel, or appropriate local Internal Revenue Service office. For more information, call the Review and Project Coordinator listed in Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office Contacts.

Valuation Incentive Program

The Valuation Incentive Program (VIP) is a property tax incentive that assists in the preservation of Nebraska's historic buildings. Through the valuation preference, the assessed valuation of a historic property is frozen for eight years at the year rehabilitation started. The valuation then rises to its market level over a four-year

period. To be eligible for this state tax incentive, a building must:

- Be a qualified historic structure, either by listing in the National Register or by local landmark designation through an approved local ordinance.

- Be substantially rehabilitated, which means the project must be worth at least 25 percent of the property's base-year assessed value.

- Be rehabilitated in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings.

Buildings must be a qualified historic structure and the NeSHPO must approve the rehabilitation before construction work starts in order to qualify for the tax freeze benefits. The tax freeze benefits the owners of the historic properties and the community by:

- Providing a real economic incentive to rehabilitate historic buildings.

- Increasing the long-term tax base of a community.

- Helping stabilize older, historic neighborhoods and commercial areas.

- Encouraging the promotion, recognition, and designation of historic buildings.

- Allowing participation by local governments that enact approved historic preservation ordinances.

For more information about VIP, contact the NeSHPO Project Coordinator listed in the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office Contacts.

Federal Project Review

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires that federal agencies take into account the effect of their undertakings on historic properties; develop and evaluate alternatives that could avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects their projects may have on historic properties; and afford the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment on the project and its effects on historic properties. The regulations that govern the Section 106 process, as it is known, also require that the federal agency consult with the NeSHPO when conducting these activities.

For example, if the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), via the Nebraska Department of Roads, contemplates construction of a new highway, FHWA must contact the NeSHPO for assistance in determining whether any sites or structures located in the project area are listed in, or eligible for inclusion, the National Register. If properties that meet this criteria are found, the FHWA must consult with the NeSHPO to avoid or reduce any harm the highway might cause the property. Note that a property need not actually be listed in the National Register to be considered for protection, only to have been determined eligible for listing. This process is to take place early enough in the planning effort to allow for alternatives that would avoid adverse effects to historic properties.

It is important to note that public participation in this process is critical. The Section 106 process requires the federal agency to seek public input if adverse effects to historic properties are discovered through consultation with the NeSHPO. The NeSHPO examines information provided by the federal agency, the NeHBS, and the National Register; although, often the most useful information comes from public comments. Section 106 was included in the National Historic Preservation Act to protect locally significant historic properties from unwitting federal action. It is truly a law that gives the public a voice in an unwieldy bureaucratic system.

For more information about Section 106 review, contact the Review and Compliance Coordinator listed in the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office Contacts.

Public Outreach and Education

The primary function of the NeSHPO is to assist communities in preserving significant buildings, sites, and structures that convey a sense of community history. The most powerful tool available to the NeSHPO in this regard is public education. For this reason, NeSHPO staff spend considerable time conducting public

meetings and workshops and disseminating information to the public.

The NeSHPO's goal is to assist local individuals, groups, and governments understand, promote, and preserve historic properties. The NeSHPO advocates not only the self-evident aesthetic advantages of historic preservation, but also the potential for preservation to help promote economic development, community planning, tourism, environmental sensitivity, and land-use planning.

The aforementioned descriptions are meant to orient the reader to the NeSHPO programs within the larger mission of the NSHS. As all NeSHPO programs originate from a common source—the National Historic Preservation Act—they work best when they work together, either in whole or in part. For the programs to function at all, they require the interest and participation of the people they are meant to serve . . . the public.

For more information about the NeSHPO or the programs discussed, call (402) 471-4787 or (800) 833-6747. Additional information is available at the Nebraska State Historical Society web page at www.nebraskahistory.org.

Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office Contacts
Michael J. Smith, Director
Nebraska State Historical Society
State Historic Preservation Officer
(402) 471-4745
mike.smith@nebraska.gov

L. Robert Puschendorf, Associate Director
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
(402) 471-4769
bob.puschendorf@nebraska.gov

Teresa Fatemi, Staff Assistant
(402) 471-4768
teresa.fatemi@nebraska.gov

Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey
Patrick Haynes
Historic Buildings Survey Coordinator
(402) 471-4770
patrick.haynes@nebraska.gov

National Register of Historic Places
Jessica Nunn
National Register Coordinator
(402) 471-4775
jessie.nunn@nebraska.gov

Certified Local Governments
L. Robert Puschendorf
(402) 471-4769
bob.puschendorf@nebraska.gov

Preservation Tax Incentives/Valuation Incentive Program
Grant Landreth
Project Coordinator
(402) 471-4788
grant.landreth@nebraska.gov

Federal Agency Review (Section 106 Review)
Jill Dolberg
Review and Compliance Coordinator
(402) 471-4773
jill.dolberg@nebraska.gov

Archaeology
Terry Steinacher
Archaeology Program Associate
(308) 665-2918

State of Nebraska Historic Preservation Board Members
Dee Adams—Merna
Janet Jeffries Beauvais—Crete
Ken Bunger—Omaha, President of the Nebraska State Historical Society Board of Trustees
Nancy Carlson—Genoa
Paul Demers—Lincoln
Nancy Gillis—Bancroft
Nancy Haney—Lyman
Jim McKee—Lincoln, Chair
Pat Phillips—Omaha
Michael Smith—Lincoln, Secretary
Elizabeth Spilnek, Hastings
Dan Worth—Lincoln

Appendix A: List of Hamilton County's Surveyed Properties

NeHBS Number	Property Name	Address	Vicinity
HM00 = Rural (133 Properties)			
HM00-002	Vernacular Farmstead	Rural	Aurora
HM00-005	Vernacular Farmstead	Rural	Phillips
HM00-006	Phillips Cemetery	Rural	Phillips
HM00-013	Craftsman Farmstead	Rural	Aurora
HM00-014	Bank Barn	Rural	Aurora
HM00-015	Pleasant View Cemetery	Rural	Aurora
HM00-020	Queen Anne Cottage Farmstead	Rural	Marquette
HM00-022	Richland Cemetery	Rural	Marquette
HM00-023	American Foursquare Farmstead	Rural	Hampton
HM00-025	Hampton Cemetery	Rural	Hampton
HM00-026	American Foursquare Farmstead	Rural	Hampton
HM00-031	Lincoln Valley Cemetery	Rural	Hampton
HM00-033	Site of Immanuel Lutheran Church	Rural	Hampton
HM00-036	Vernacular Farmstead	Rural	Hampton
HM00-041	Aurora Cemetery	Rural	Aurora
HM00-045	Evangelical Lutheran Church	Rural	Hampton
HM00-049	Bungalow Farmstead	Rural	Marquette
HM00-050	Vernacular Farmstead	Rural	Kronborg
HM00-051	American Foursquare Farmstead	Rural	Kronborg
HM00-054	Vernacular Farmstead	Rural	Kronborg
HM00-057	Vernacular Farmstead	Rural	Kronborg
HM00-059	George Western Cemetery	Rural	Marquette
HM00-062	Barn	Rural	Kronborg
HM00-064	Mamre Cemetery	Rural	Hordville
HM00-066	Queen Anne Farmstead	Rural	Hordville
HM00-068	Bluff Cemetery	Rural	Hordville
HM00-069	Queen Anne Cottage Farmstead	Rural	Hordville
HM00-070	American Foursquare Farmstead	Rural	Hordville
HM00-071	Lindale Cemetery	Rural	Hordville
HM00-072	Immanuel Lutheran Church Complex	Rural	Hordville
HM00-082	St. Joseph Cemetery	Rural	Giltner
HM00-083	Giltner Cemetery	Rural	Giltner
HM00-084	Lerton Cemetery	Rural	Giltner
HM00-085	American Foursquare Farmstead	Rural	Giltner
HM00-086	Case Cemetery	Rural	Giltner
HM00-087	Bungalow Farmstead	Rural	Giltner
HM00-088	Greenwood Cemetery	Rural	Giltner
HM00-089	Seaton Cemetery	Rural	Giltner
HM00-090	Cedar Lawn Farms	Rural	Giltner
HM00-093	Gabled-ell Farmstead	Rural	Stockham
HM00-095	Farmer's Valley Cemetery	Rural	Stockham
HM00-096	Barn	Rural	Aurora
HM00-100	Big Blue River Bridge	Rural	Stockham
HM00-102	Aurora Viaduct	Rural	Aurora
HM00-103	Franklin Cemetery	Rural	Giltner
HM00-104	Friesen Cemetery	Rural	Stockham
HM00-105	Henderson Mennonite Cemetery	Rural	Hampton
HM00-106	Mount Zion Cemetery	Rural	Hordville
HM00-107	North Blue Cemetery	Rural	Hordville
HM00-108	West Blue Cemetery	Rural	Giltner
HM00-109	Prairie Gem Cemetery	Rural	Giltner
HM00-110	Salem Lutheran Cemetery	Rural	Hampton

HM00-111	Siloa Cemetery	Rural	Aurora
HM00-112	Stockham Cemetery	Rural	Stockham
HM00-113	United Lutheran Cemetery	Rural	Hampton
HM00-114	Barn	Rural	Giltner
HM00-115	American Foursquare Farmstead	Rural	Giltner
HM00-116	Barn	Rural	Giltner
HM00-117	Barn	Rural	Giltner
HM00-118	Bungalow Farmstead	Rural	Aurora
HM00-119	Oregon Trail Marker	Rural	Aurora
HM00-120	Craftsman Farmstead	Rural	Aurora
HM00-121	Gabled-ell Farmstead	Rural	Stockham
HM00-122	Chaffee Homestead Monument	Rural	Stockham
HM00-123	German Methodist Cemetery	Rural	Stockham
HM00-124	Bungalow Farmstead	Rural	Stockham
HM00-125	Barn	Rural	Aurora
HM00-126	Bungalow Farmstead	Rural	Hampton
HM00-127	Queen Anne Farmstead	Rural	Hampton
HM00-128	***Also listed as HM00-109	Rural	Giltner
HM00-129	Kuchner Barn-1906	Rural	Giltner
HM00-130	Barn	Rural	Hampton
HM00-131	***Also listed as HM00-105	Rural	Hampton
HM00-132	Craftsman Farmstead	Rural	Hampton
HM00-133	Gabled-ell Farmstead	Rural	Stockham
HM00-134	***Also listed as HM00-104	Rural	Stockham
HM00-135	Craftsman Farmstead	Rural	Stockham
HM00-136	Barn	Rural	Stockham
HM00-137	Craftsman Farmstead	Rural	Hampton
HM00-138	Barn	Rural	Stockham
HM00-139	American Foursquare Farmstead	Rural	Giltner
HM00-140	Quonset	Rural	Stockham
HM00-141	Barn	Rural	Stockham
HM00-142	Barn	Rural	Giltner
HM00-143	Barn	Rural	Giltner
HM00-144	Barn	Rural	Giltner
HM00-145	Vernacular Farmstead	Rural	Giltner
HM00-146	Barn	Rural	Giltner
HM00-147	Barn	Rural	Giltner
HM00-148	Gabled-ell Farmstead	Rural	Giltner
HM00-149	Barn	Rural	Giltner
HM00-150	Craftsman Farmstead	Rural	Giltner
HM00-151	Vernacular Farmstead	Rural	Giltner
HM00-152	Barn	Rural	Giltner
HM00-153	American Foursquare Farmstead	Rural	Stockham
HM00-154	Barn	Rural	Giltner
HM00-155	Barn	Rural	Giltner
HM00-156	Craftsman Farmstead	Rural	Giltner
HM00-157	American Foursquare Farmstead	Rural	Murphy
HM00-158	Craftsman Farmstead	Rural	Hampton
HM00-159	Concrete Bridge	Rural	Hampton
HM00-160	Bungalow Farmhouse	Rural	Aurora
HM00-161	Barn	Rural	Aurora
HM00-162	American Foursquare Farmstead	Rural	Aurora
HM00-163	Vernacular (Concrete Block) Farmstead	Rural	Phillips
HM00-164	Railroad Bridge	Rural	Phillips
HM00-165	Craftsman Farmstead	Rural	Phillips
HM00-166	Queen Anne Farmstead	Rural	Aurora

HM00-167	Gabled-ell Farmstead	Rural	Aurora
HM00-168	Railroad Bridge	Rural	Marquette
HM00-169	Vernacular Farmstead	Rural	Marquette
HM00-170	Vernacular Farmstead	Rural	Phillips
HM00-171	Craftsman Farmstead	Rural	Kronborg
HM00-172	Vernacular Farmstead	Rural	Hordville
HM00-173	Queen Anne Farmstead	Rural	Hordville
HM00-174	Bridge	Rural	Hordville
HM00-175	Bridge	Rural	Kronborg
HM00-176	Gabled-ell Farmstead	Rural	Marquette
HM00-177	American Foursquare Farmstead	Rural	Aurora
HM00-178	Aurora Airport	Rural	Aurora
HM00-179	Queen Anne Farmstead	Rural	Kronborg
HM00-180	Gabled-ell Farmstead	Rural	Hampton
HM00-181	Craftsman Farmstead	Rural	Hampton
HM00-182	Gabled-ell Farmstead	Rural	Hordville
HM00-183	Dutch Colonial Revival Farmstead	Rural	Marquette
HM00-184	Earth Berm Farmhouse	Rural	Aurora
HM00-185	Gabled-ell Farmstead	Rural	Marquette
HM00-186	Telephone Building	Rural	Aurora
HM00-187	Queen Anne Farmstead	Rural	Aurora
HM00-188	Gabled-ell Farmhouse	Rural	Aurora
HM00-189	American Foursquare Farmstead	Rural	Phillips
HM00-190	American Foursquare Farmstead	Rural	Phillips
HM00-191	KRGI Radio Building	Rural	Phillips
HM00-192	Queen Anne Farmstead	Rural	Phillips
HM00-193	American Foursquare Farmstead	Rural	Aurora
HM00-194	Phillips 66 Fertilizer Plant	Rural	Aurora

HM01 = Aurora, Nebraska (252 Properties)

HM01-001	Hamilton County Courthouse	Courthouse Square
HM01-003	Bates House	17th & A Streets
HM01-004	Williams House	NWC 10th & M Streets
HM01-006	Classical Revival House	1405 9th Street
HM01-009	Queen Anne Cottage House	1415 11th Street
HM01-010	Bungalow House	1309 11th Street
HM01-012	Queen Anne House	1113 11th Street
HM01-013	Christian Church	NWC L & 11th Streets
HM01-014	Prairie Style House	SWC 11th & L Streets
HM01-017	Queen Anne House	SWC K & 11th Streets
HM01-021	Vernacular House	803 11th Street
HM01-022	Bungalow House	719 11th Street
HM01-023	Queen Anne Cottage House	715 11th Street
HM01-024	Farmers Union Creamery	SWC 10th & G Streets
HM01-032	Queen Anne Cottage House	815 10th Street
HM01-034	Federated Church	10th & K Streets
HM01-036	Queen Anne House	1005 K Street
HM01-037	Bungalow House	1009 K Street
HM01-038	Queen Anne House	1003 10th Street
HM01-039	Queen Anne House	1007 10th Street
HM01-041	American Foursquare House	1012 L Street
HM01-043	United Brethren Church	911 L Street
HM01-046	American Foursquare House	1108 10th Street
HM01-049	Italianate House	1003 M/1204 10th Street
HM01-051	Queen Anne House	1218 10th Street
HM01-052	Vernacular House	WS of 10th btw M & N Streets

HM01-053	Vernacular House	1221 10th Street
HM01-055	Bungalow House	1001 O Street
HM01-056	Queen Anne Cottage House	1009 O Street
HM01-060	Queen Anne Cottage	1418 10th Street
HM01-061	Craftsman House	1005 P Street
HM01-063	Spanish Renaissance Revival House	1415 9th Street
HM01-064	Gabled-ell House	1409 9th Street
HM01-066	Bungalow House	1309 9th Street
HM01-067	Craftsman House	1307 9th Street
HM01-069	Queen Anne Cottage House	1310 9th Street
HM01-072	Prairie House	1217 9th Street
HM01-073	Vernacular House	1218 9th Street
HM01-075	American Foursquare House	1207 9th Street
HM01-076	Streeter-Peterson House	1121 9th Street
HM01-077	American Foursquare House	1116 9th Street
HM01-079	Prairie House	1105 9th Street
HM01-081	Queen Anne House	909 L Street
HM01-082	Queen Anne House	912 L Street
HM01-084	American Foursquare House	818 L Street
HM01-085	Bungalow House	1012 9th Street
HM00-086	Period House	1005 9th Street
HM01-087	Vernacular House	905 K Street
HM01-092	Queen Anne House	817 9th Street
HM01-093	Queen Anne Cottage House	809 9th Street
HM01-094	Queen Anne House	803 9th Street
HM01-098	Queen Anne House	715 9th Street
HM01-102	Vernacular House	822 E Street
HM01-104	Bungalow House	718 G Street
HM01-106	Craftsman House	815 8th Street
HM01-107	Bungalow House	905 8th Street
HM01-108	Gabled-ell House	921 8th Street
HM01-110	American Foursquare House	810 L Street
HM01-111	American Foursquare House	8th & L Streets
HM01-113	Queen Anne House	NWC 8th & L Streets
HM01-114	Craftsman House	1115 8th Street
HM01-115	Tudor Revival House	1112 8th Street
HM01-116	Queen Anne House	1119 8th Street
HM01-117	Bungalow House	804 M Street
HM01-118	Craftsman House	804 10th Street
HM01-119	Bungalow House	1319 8th Street
HM01-120	Cole Park	SWC 8th Street & Highway 34
HM01-121	Queen Anne Cottage House	712 O Street
HM01-122	Queen Anne House	1219 7th Street
HM01-124	American Foursquare House	703 M Street
HM01-125	Bungalow House	619 M Street
HM01-128	Queen Anne House	611 H Street
HM01-131	Queen Anne House	919 6th Street
HM01-133	Vernacular House	1108 6th Street
HM01-135	Vernacular House	1119 6th Street
HM01-136	Queen Anne Cottage House	604 10th Street
HM01-139	Queen Anne Cottage House	1409 5th Street
HM01-140	American Foursquare House	1405 5th Street
HM01-142	Queen Anne Cottage House	502 M Street
HM01-143	Bungalow House	501 M Street
HM01-145	Craftsman House	503 L Street
HM01-146	Craftsman House	507 L Street

HM01-150	Queen Anne House	418 J Street
HM01-155	Vernacular House	405 O Street
HM01-157	Bungalow House	220 10th Street
HM01-158	Vernacular House	215 M Street
HM01-159	Craftsman House	1205 1st Street
HM01-162	Queen Anne House	NS of Q btw 6th & 7th Streets
HM01-164	Queen Anne House	1002 A Street
HM01-165	Grain Elevator	SS of 11th & G Streets
HM01-168	Church	NEC K & 11th Streets
HM01-169	Aurora Post Office	1105 L Street
HM01-171	Bungalow House	1308 11th Street
HM01-172	Craftsman House	1318 11th Street
HM01-173	Bungalow House	1314 11th Street
HM01-177	Queen Anne House	1505 P Street
HM01-178	Queen Anne House	1419 12th Street
HM01-179	Bungalow House	1412 12th Street
HM01-180	Queen Anne House	1402 12th Street
HM01-181	Gabled-ell House	1318 12th Street
HM01-183	Prairie House	1308 12th Street
HM01-185	Queen Anne Cottage House	1303 12th Street
HM01-186	Commercial Building	1127-1129 12th Street
HM01-187	Thomas Block	1119 12th Street
HM01-188	Commercial Building	1115 12th Street
HM01-189	Daylight Donuts (Commercial)	1109-1111 12th Street
HM01-190	Bank Building	1107 12th Street
HM01-191	First National Bank	1101 12th Street
HM01-192	Commercial Building	1201 M Street
HM01-193	Commercial Building	NS M btw 12th & 13th
HM01-194	Commercial Building	1211 M Street
HM01-195	McKee Building	1213 M Street
HM01-196	E. J. Jones Building	1227 M Street
HM01-198	Commercial Building	WS 13th btw M & N Streets
HM01-199	Bandstand	Courthouse Square
HM01-200	First Securities Building	1220 L Street
HM01-201	Commercial Building	1030 13th Street
HM01-202	Commercial Building	1102 13th Street
HM01-205	Farmers Telephone Association Building	1109 K Street
HM01-206	Queen Anne House	904 12th Street
HM01-207	Carnegie Library	SEC 12th & J
HM01-208	Bungalow House	817 12th Street
HM01-209	Haworth-Lounsbury House	813 12th Street
HM01-210	Queen Anne House	704 12th Street
HM01-211	Queen Anne Cottage House	218 13th Street
HM01-218	Old School Apartments	1212 E Street
HM01-222	Former Church Rectory	WS 13th btw G & H
HM01-223	Craftsman House	715 13th Street
HM01-224	American Foursquare House	WS 13th btw G & H
HM01-228	Craftsman House	1220 H Street
HM01-230	Queen Anne House	819 13th Street
HM01-234	Commercial Building—Aurora Electric Co.	1216 J Street
HM01-235	Vernacular House	1220 13th Street
HM01-236	American Foursquare House	1311 13th Street
HM01-237	Queen Anne Cottage House	1315 13th Street
HM01-238	Queen Anne Cottage House	1320 13th Street
HM01-240	Vernacular House	1421 13th Street
HM01-242	American Foursquare House	1519 13th Street

HM01-243	Streeter Park	NS Hwy. 34 btw 10th St. & Hwy. 14
HM01-245	Vernacular House	1319 14th Street
HM01-246	Bungalow House	1317 14th Street
HM01-247	Vernacular House	1308 14th Street
HM01-248	Queen Anne House	1314 14th Street
HM01-251	American Foursquare House	1402 M Street
HM01-252	Prairie Cube House	1410 M Street
HM01-254	American Foursquare House	916 14th Street
HM01-255	American Foursquare House	904 14th Street
HM01-260	American Foursquare House	1316 E Street
HM01-261	Queen Anne Cottage House	815 15th Street
HM01-262	Queen Anne Cottage House	819 15th Street
HM01-264	Queen Anne House	904 15th Street
HM01-266	Italianate House	1004 15th Street
HM01-267	Queen Anne Cottage	1015 15th Street
HM01-269	Bungalow House	1420 M Street
HM01-270	Queen Anne Cottage	1419 O Street
HM01-272	Queen Anne House	1019 16th Street
HM01-276	Period House	910 16th Street
HM01-279	Queen Anne House	SWC 16th & J Streets
HM01-281	Queen Anne House	1729 A Street
HM01-282	Queen Anne Cottage House	1819 A Street
HM01-283	Fairview School	17th & A Streets
HM01-286	Craftsman House	1720 H Street
HM01-288	Queen Anne House	1603 M Street
HM01-289	Queen Anne House	SWC 17th & N Streets
HM01-291	Opera House	1121 M Street
HM01-295	Commercial Building	1202 L Street
HM01-296	Commercial Building	1206 L Street
HM01-297	Commercial Building	1208 L Street
HM01-298	Barber Shop	1222 L Street
HM01-299	Commercial Building	1224 L Street
HM01-300	Commercial Building	ES of 13th btw K & L Streets
HM01-301	Commercial Building	1120-1122 13th Street
HM01-302	Commercial Building	1124 13th Street
HM01-303	Commercial Building	1225 M Street
HM01-304	Commercial Building	1215 M Street
HM01-305	Commercial Building	1123 12th Street
HM01-306	Cass Brothers	1117 12th Street
HM01-307	Period House	1419 M Street
HM01-308	Queen Anne Cottage House	1403 M Street
HM01-309	Bungalow House	809 M Street
HM01-310	Bungalow House	712 M Street
HM01-311	Vernacular House	715 M Street
HM01-312	Craftsman House	711 M Street
HM01-313	Craftsman House	702 M Street
HM01-314	Vernacular House	603 M Street
HM01-315	Vernacular House	417 M Street
HM01-316	Bungalow House	410 M Street
HM01-317	Quonset	NEC M & 1st Streets
HM01-318	Prairie Cube House	206 N Street
HM01-319	Prairie Cube House	212 10th Street
HM01-320	Prairie Cube House	303 10th Street
HM01-321	Vernacular House	412 10th Street
HM01-322	Classical Revival House	418 10th Street
HM01-323	Prairie Cube House	709 10th Street

HM01-324	Bungalow House	711 10th Street
HM01-325	Queen Anne House	805 10th Street
HM01-326	Vernacular House	1005 10th Street
HM01-327	Bungalow House	1208 10th Street
HM01-328	American Foursquare House	1212 10th Street
HM01-329	Vernacular House	1503 10th Street
HM01-330	Craftsman House	1217 10th Street
HM01-331	***Duplicated as HM01-270	1419 O Street
HM01-332	Vernacular House	1413 O Street
HM01-333	Queen Anne Cottage House	1409 O Street
HM01-334	Vernacular House	1015 O Street
HM01-335	Ranch House	303 O Street
HM01-336	Queen Anne Cottage House	1406 P Street
HM01-337	Commercial Building	1311 L Street
HM01-338	American Foursquare House	1003 L Street
HM01-339	***Duplicated as HM01-082	912 L Street
HM01-340	American Foursquare House	618 K Street
HM01-341	Craftsman House	706 J Street
HM01-342	*Unused*	
HM01-343	Queen Anne House	NWC 16th & G Streets
HM01-344	Craftsman House	313 14th Street
HM01-345	NDOR Building	15th & B Streets
HM01-346	American Foursquare House	210 13th Street
HM01-347	Queen Anne Cottage House	203 13th Street
HM01-348	Craftsman House	403 13th Street
HM01-349	Vernacular House	703 15th Street
HM01-350	Vernacular House	721 15th Street
HM01-351	Vernacular House	1112 15th Street
HM01-352	Queen Anne House	1116 15th Street
HM01-353	American Foursquare House	1113 15th Street
HM01-354	Gabled-ell House	1319 15th Street
HM01-355	Queen Anne House	908 14th Street
HM01-356	Queen Anne Cottage House	903 14th Street
HM01-357	Craftsman House	818 13th Street
HM01-358	Commercial Building	ES 13th btw M & N Streets
HM01-359	Vernacular House	1409 13th Street
HM01-360	Craftsman House	1418 13th Street
HM01-361	Vernacular House	1418 12th Street
HM01-362	Commercial Building—Sandin Auto	ES 12th btw J & K Streets
HM01-363	American Foursquare House	1213 10th Street
HM01-364	Vernacular House	804 10th Street
HM01-365	Craftsman House	917 9th Street
HM01-366	Colonial House	1115 9th Street
HM01-367	Bungalow House	1405 8th Street
HM01-368	Colonial House	1207 8th Street
HM01-369	Period House	1320 6th Street
HM01-370	Aurora Co-op South Elevator	WS 8th btw C & B Streets
HM01-371	Queen Anne House	205 16th Street
HM01-372	Bungalow House	1810 L Street
HM01-373	Minimal Traditionalist House	1807 L Street
HM01-374	Earthen House	2121 O Street
HM01-375	Dutch Colonial Revival House	1914 Q Street/Highway 34
HM01-376	Commercial Building—Garage	SWC 12th & Q Streets
HM01-377	American Foursquare House	1621 10th Street
HM01-378	Service Station	NWC 9th & Q Streets
HM01-379	Bungalow House	NEC 8th & Q Streets

HM01-380	Craftsman House	1518 8th Street
HM01-381	Queen Anne House	NWC 1st & Q Streets
HM01-382	Queen Anne Cottage House	1619 M Street
HM01-383	Colonial Revival House	1017 16th Street
HM01-384	Prairie Cube House	NEC 16th & J Streets

HM02 = Giltner, Nebraska (8 Properties)

HM02-003	American Foursquare House	NWC Derby & Barrett Streets
HM02-004	Queen Anne House	631 North Derby
HM02-007	School	SEC Hatfield & Pelham Streets
HM02-013	Giltner Bank	NWC Commercial & Hatfield Streets
HM02-014	Giltner Bar & Grill	SEC Hatfield & Commercial Streets
HM02-021	Commercial Building	NWC Commercial & Dwight Streets
HM02-022	Giltner Public School	NWC 6th Road & Giltner Road
HM02-023	Grain Elevator	SEC Commercial Street

HM03 = Hampton, Nebraska (21 Properties)

HM03-001	Grain Elevator	3rd & A Streets
HM03-003	Queen Anne House	837 3rd Street
HM03-005	Queen Anne Cottage House	735 3rd Street
HM03-007	Bungalow House	637 3rd Street
HM03-008	Vernacular House	437 3rd Street
HM03-011	Commercial Building	WS 3rd btw B & C Streets
HM03-012	Opera House	SWC 3rd & B Streets
HM03-013	First National Bank	WS 3rd btw A & B Streets
HM03-014	Commercial Building	WS 3rd btw A & B Streets
HM03-019	Hampton Auditorium	ES 2nd btw B & C Streets
HM03-028	Vernacular House	318 B Street
HM03-030	Queen Anne House	152 5th Street
HM03-031	Queen Anne House	258 5th Street
HM03-033	Youst Cemetery	Section 10, Township 10N, Range 5W
HM03-034	Craftsman House	NWC 3rd & F Streets
HM03-035	Bungalow House	528 2nd Street
HM03-036	Bungalow House	424 2nd Street
HM03-037	Bungalow House	324 2nd Street
HM03-038	Bungalow House	347 4th Street
HM03-039	Bungalow House	347 D Street
HM03-040	Bungalow House	455 5th Street

HM04 = Hordville, Nebraska (18 Properties)

HM04-002	Fridhem Swedish Lutheran Church	Park Lane
HM04-003	Bungalow Church Parsonage	Intersection of 3rd Street & Park Lane
HM04-004	Queen Anne House	214 Elm Street
HM04-005	Bungalow House	208 Elm Street
HM04-007	Commercial Warehouse	South of RR btw Chestnut & Elm Streets
HM04-008	Vernacular House	210 Chestnut Street
HM04-009	Queen Anne Cottage House	224 Chestnut Street
HM04-010	Baptist Church	3rd & Main Streets
HM04-011	Bank	NWC Main & 2nd Streets
HM04-012	Bandstand	Main & 2nd Streets
HM04-013	Commercial Building	SEC Main & 2nd Streets
HM04-014	Queen Anne House	NWC 4th & Main Streets
HM04-017	School	3rd Street btw Main & Olive Streets
HM04-019	Queen Anne Cottage	218 Olive Street
HM04-020	Vernacular House	324 Olive Street
HM04-021	Water Tower	Main Street

| HM04-022 | Bungalow House | 416 4th Street |
| HM04-023 | Grain Elevator | Hordville Main Street |

HM05 = Kronborg, Nebraska (3 Properties)

HM05-001	St. John's Lutheran Church	Kronborg, Nebraska
HM05-004	Queen Anne House	Kronborg, Nebraska
HM05-006	Bungalow House	Lot 1, First Addition

HM06 = Marquette, Nebraska (15 Properties)

HM06-003	Period House	406 Railroad Street
HM06-004	Bank	Marquis Street
HM06-005	Commercial Building	Marquis Street
HM06-006	Post Office	Marquis Street
HM06-010	Church	Nebraska & Center Streets
HM06-012	Barn & Silo	604 Nebraska Street
HM06-014	Gabled-ell House	101 Lynn Street
HM06-017	Dutch Colonial Revival House	113 Lynn Street
HM06-018	American Foursquare House	201 Depot Street
HM06-019	Queen Anne House	301 John Street
HM06-024	Queen Anne House	NEC Marquis & Railroad Street
HM06-025	Bungalow House	206 Marquis Street
HM06-028	Queen Anne House	202 Center Street
HM06-031	Water Tower	Railroad Street
HM06-032	Grain Elevator	Railroad Street

HM07 = Murphy, Nebraska (1 Property)

| HM07-001 | Grain Elevator | Murphy, Nebraska |

HM08 = Phillips, Nebraska (8 Properties)

HM08-002	Queen Anne House	342 Hall Street
HM08-003	Vernacular House	422 East Street
HM08-004	Queen Anne House	607 East Street
HM08-008	Grain Elevator	SS 8th btw Hall & East Streets
HM08-012	Commercial Building	500 Block of West Street
HM08-014	Bell Tower	Intersection of 5th & West Streets
HM08-017	I House	NEC 6th & Hamilton Streets
HM08-018	Water Tower	600 Block of West Street

HM09 = Stockham, Nebraska (4 Properties)

HM09-009	Queen Anne Cottage House	203 Scott Street
HM09-010	Queen Anne Cottage House	North Main, North of R/R Tracks
HM09-011	Commercial Building	ES Main Street
HM09-014	Craftsman House	505 Scott Street

References

Andreas, A.T. 1882. *History of the State of Nebraska*. Chicago, Illinois: The Western Historical Company.

Baltensperger, Bradley. 1985. *Nebraska*. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press.

_____ . 1987. Farm Consolidation in the Northern and Central States of the Great Plains. *Great Plains Quarterly* 7: 256-265.

Bradford, Donald. 1979. *Aurora and Hamilton County, Nebraska*. Lincoln, Nebraska: Center for Great Plains Studies, Small Town Institute in the Humanities.

Bremer, Bertha. 1967. *Centennial History of Hamilton County*. Aurora, Nebraska: Hamilton County Centennial Association.

Burr and Buck. 1921. *History of Hamilton and Clay Counties, Nebraska (Volume I)*. Chicago, Illinois: The S.J. Clarke Company.

Coddington, Mark. 2007. Recovering a Rich History. *Grand Island Independent*, July 5.

Colten, Craig. 2006. Henry Howe's Images of an Emerging Main Street. *Material Culture* 38 (1): 36-53.

Dinslage, Pat. 1992. Twin Towns . . . Polk, Hordville Share Common Histories. *Grand Island Independent,* November 29.

Dunham, J. R. 1888. *An Atlas of Hamilton County, Nebraska*. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Griffing, Dixon, & Company.

Fitzpatrick, Lilian. 1960. *Nebraska Place-Names*. Lincoln, Nebraska: Bison Books, University of Nebraska Press.

Fleming, Cassie. 2008. Fire Guts Aurora's Historic Fidelity Building. *Grand Island Independent*, July 10.

Fruits, Hap. 1991. Council Accepts Bid to Tear Down Hearn Building. *Aurora News-Register*, March 6.

Furse, R.L. 2004. Temple Craft Group Kick Started Aurora's Square Development. *Aurora News-Register*, December 1.

Goke, A.W., and Buckhannan, W.H. 1927. *Soil Survey of Hamilton County, Nebraska*. Washington, D.C.: United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Chemistry and Soils.

Hickey, Donald. 1992. *Nebraska Moments*. Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press.

Hooper, Heather. 1995. A Grand Party for a Grand Building. *Grand Island Independent*, June 25.

Hudson, John. 1985. *Plains Country Towns*. Minneapolis, Minnesota: University of Minnesota Press.

Kearney Hub. 2009. Aurora Building Deemed Unsafe After Collapse. *Kearney Hub*, March 2.

Laws of Nebraska. 1919. *Laws of Nebraska*, Chapter 249.

Luebke, Frederick. 1980. Legal Restrictions on Foregin Languages in the Great Plains States, 1917-1923. In *Languages in Conflict*. Edited by: Paul Schach, Pages 1-19. Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press.

Martis, Kenneth. 2001. The Geographical Dimensions of a New Nation, 1780s-1820s. In *North America The Historical Geography of a Changing Continent*. Edited by: Thomas McIlwraith and Edward Muller, Pages 143-164. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield.

Meyer v. Nebraska, 107 Nebraska 657 (1922).

Meyer v. Nebraska, 262 U. S. 390 (1923).

Nebraska Council of Defense. 1918. *Report of the Nebraska State Council of Defense*.

Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR). 2008. *Registered Groundwater Wells Data Retrieval*. Date Last Accessed October 1, 2008.

Nebraska District of Evangelical Lutheran Synod v. McKelvie, 104 Nebraska 100-101. *Reports of Cases in the Nebraska Supreme Court, 1919*.

Nelson, Zandee. 1999. Special Buildings Around the Square, In *I Remember . . . Family Stories from Hamilton County, Nebraska*. Edited by: The Family Heritage Institute of Hamilton County, Pages 31-43.

Patrico, Jim. 2009. Best Places to Raise Farm Kids: Hamilton County, Nebraska. *Progressive Farmer*. www.progressivefarmer.com/farmer/bestplaces/articles/1hamilton.html. Date Last Accessed February 12, 2009.

Perkey, Elton. 1982. *Perkey's Nebraska Place Names*. Lincoln, Nebraska: Nebraska State Historical Society.

Pfeifer, Laurie. 1990. Population Shift Creates Hardship for Early Schools. *Aurora News-Register*, October 3.

Rodgers, Jack. 1958. The Foreign Language Issue in Nebraska, 1918-1923. *Nebraska History* 39(1): 1-22.

Sherard, Gerald. 1985. *Historical Sketches of Giltner, Nebraska*. Baltimore, Maryland: Gateway Press, Incorporated.

Sun Publishing Company. 1890. *The Sun Directory of Hamilton County*. Aurora, Nebraska: Sun Publishing Company.

The Aurora Republican. 1916. *Atlas and Plat Book of Hamilton County Nebraska*. Aurora, Nebraska: Aurora Printing Company.

The Goodspeed Publishing Company. 1890. *Biographical & Historical Memoirs of Adams, Clay, Hall and Hamilton Counties*. Chicago, Illinois: The Goodspeed Publishing Company.

The Phillips History Book Committee. 2006. *History of Phillips, Nebraska*. Phillips, Nebraska: The Phillips History Book Committee.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). 2002. *2002 Census of Agriculture County Profile*. National Agricultural Statistics Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

Vanek, Wayne, Pollock, Robert, Morris, Charles, and Pickering, Ted. 1985. *Soil Survey of Hamilton County, Nebraska*. Washington, D.C.: United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service.

Welsch, Roger. 1969. Sod Construction on the Great Plains. *Pioneer America* 1(2): 13-17.

_____ . 1991. *Sod Walls*. Lincoln, Nebraska: J & L Lee Company.

www.census.gov. *United States Census Bureau*. United States Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration. Date last accessed 1 July 2008.

Glossary

Art Moderne Style: Circa 1930-1950. An architectural style featuring industrial technology and streamlined simplicity. Features include smooth, rounded corners, horizontal massing, details in concrete, glass block, aluminum, and stainless steel.

Association: Link of historic property with a historic event, activity, or person. Also, the quality of integrity through which a historic property is linked to a particular past time and place.

Balloon Frame: A type of support for wood frame buildings that utilizes vertical studs that extend the full height of the wall and floor joists fastened to the studs with nails. Balloon frame buildings in Nebraska became popular with the railroad's expansion when milled lumber became readily accessible.

Bay Window: A decorative window that projects out from the flat surface of an exterior wall, often polygonal in design. Bay windows are often seen on Queen Anne style buildings.

Brackets: Support members used under overhanging eaves of a roof, usually decorative in nature.

Bungalow/Craftsman Style: Circa 1890-1940. An architectural style characterized by overhanging eaves, modest size, open porches with large piers and low-pitched roofs.

Circa: At, in, or of approximately, used especially with dates.

Clapboard: Relatively long, thin boards that have a thick lower edge and a feathered, or tapered upper edge. The shape of the boards permits them to be overlapped horizontally. Clapboard is most commonly used as cladding material on vernacular form houses and their secondary buildings.

Column: A circular or square vertical support member.

Commercial Vernacular Style: Circa 1860-1930. A form of building used to describe simply designed commercial buildings of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, which usually display large retail windows and recessed entrances on the first floor.

Contributing: A building, site, structure, object, or collection of buildings such as a farmstead that meets the state historical society's criteria of integrity, historic association, historic architectural qualities, and was present during the period of significance. A property that contributes to the survey is generally evaluated with less strictness than for an individual listing on the National Register, yet more strictness than a building which may "contribute" to a proposed National Register district. (As defined by the Nebraska State Historical Society).

Cross Gable: Circa 1860-1910. A vernacular building form typically two-stories and square in plan with two identical roofs whose ridges intersect to produce a cruciform.

Design: Quality of integrity applying to the elements that create the physical form, plan, space, structure, and style of property.

Dormer: A vertical window projecting from the roof. Dormer type variations are based on the dormer's roof form, for instance, shed dormer, gable dormer, and hipped dormer.

Dutch Colonial Revival Style: Circa 1900-1940. A residential architectural style based on the more formal Georgian Revival style. This style is identified by its gambrel roof and symmetrical façade.

Eclectic Style: Circa 1890-1910. An eclectic building displays a combination of architectural elements from various styles. It commonly resulted when a house designed in one architectural style was remodeled into another.

Elevation: Any single side of a building or structure.

Eligible: Properties that meet the National Parks Service's criteria for nomination and listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Evaluation: Process by which the significance and integrity or a historic property are judged and eligibility for National Register of Historic Places listing is determined.

Extant: Still standing or existing (as in a building, structure, site, and/or object).

False-Front: Circa 1850-1880. A vernacular building form which is typically a one-and-half story front gable frame building with a square façade that extends vertically in front of the front facing gable giving the appearance of a larger building. Often associated with first-generation commercial buildings. Also known as "boom town" construction, many small towns in Nebraska have false-front buildings on "Main Street."

Feeling: Quality of integrity through which a historic property evokes the aesthetic or historic sense of past time and place.

Fenestration: The arrangement of windows and other exterior openings on a building.

Four-Square Style: Circa 1900-1930. Popularized by mail-order catalogs and speculative builders in the early 20th century. This style is typified by its box-like massing, two-stories, hipped roof, wide overhanging eaves, central dormers, and one-story porch spanning the front façade.

Front Gable: Circa 1860-1910. The vernacular form of a building, generally a house, in which the roof's triangular end faces the street.

Gable: The vertical triangular end of a building from cornice or eaves to ridge.

Gabled Ell: Circa 1860-1910. The vernacular form of a building, generally a house, in which two gabled wings are perpendicular to one another in order to form a "L" shaped structure.

Gable End: The triangular end of an exterior wall.

Gable Roof: A roof type formed by the meeting of two sloping roof surfaces.

Gambrel Roof: A roof type with two slopes on each side.

High Victoria Gothic: Circa 1865-1900. This architectural style draws upon varied European sources and employs pointed arches and polychromatic details. The heavier detailing and more complex massing made this style popular for public and institutional buildings.

Hipped Roof: A roof type formed by the meeting of four sloping roof surfaces.

Historic Context: The concept used to group related historic properties based upon a theme, a chronological period, and/or geographical region.

Historic Siding Materials: (Jester 1995).

Integrity: Authenticity of a property's historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property's historic period.

Italianate Style: Circa 1870-1890. A popular style for houses, these square, rectangular, or L-shaped, two-story buildings have low-pitched, hip roofs, with wide eaves usually supported by heavy brackets, tall narrow windows, and front porches. In some cases, the roof may be topped with a cupola.

Keystone: A wedge shaped piece at the crown of an arch that locks the other pieces in place. It is seen most often over arched doors and window openings and is sometimes of a different material than the opening itself. Also referred to as a capstone.

Late Gothic Revival Style: Circa 1880-1920. A later version of the Gothic Style, these buildings are generally larger and use heavy masonry construction. In churches, masonry is sometimes used throughout the structure. The pointed/arched window openings remain a key feature, however, designs are more subdued than those of the earlier period.

Location: Quality of integrity retained by a historic property existing in the same place as it did during the period of significance.

Materials: Quality of integrity retained by a historic property existing in the same place as it did during the period of significance.

Mediterranean Revival: Circa 1900-1940. These buildings are characterized by flat wall surfaces, often plastered, broken by a series of arches with terra cotta, plaster, or tile ornamentation. Details such as red tile roofs and heavy brackets are also commonly used.

Multiple Property Nomination: The National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property documentation form nominates groups of related significant properties. The themes, trends, and patterns of history shard by the properties are organized into historic contexts. Property types that represent those historic contexts are defined within the nomination.

National Register of Historic Places: The official Federal list of districts, buildings, sites, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture that are important in the prehistory or history of their community, state, and/or nation. The program is administered through the National Park Service by way of State Historic Preservation Offices.

Neo-Classical Style: Circa 1900-1920. An architectural style characterized by a symmetrical façade and usually a pediment portico with classical columns.

Non-Contributing: A building, site, structure, or object that does not add to the historic architectural qualities or historic associations for which a property is significant. The resource was not present during the period of significance; does not relate to the documented significance of the property; or due to alterations, disturbances, additions, or other changes, it no longer possesses historic integrity nor is capable of yielding important information about the period. (As defined by the National Register).

Object: An artistic, simple, and/or small scale construction not identified as a building or structure. For example, signs, markers, and monuments.

One-Story Cube: Circa 1870-1930. The vernacular form of a house, which is one-story and box-like in massing. Features generally include a low-hipped roof, a full front porch recessed under the roof, little ornamentation, and simple cladding, such as clapboard, brick, or stucco. Also referred to as Prairie Cube.

Period of Significance: Span of time in which a property attained the significance for which it meets the National Register criteria.

Pony Truss Bridge: Circa 1880-1920. A low iron or steel truss, approximately five to seven feet in height, located alongside and above the roadway surface. Pony truss bridges often range in span lengths of twenty to 100 feet.

Portico: A covered walk or porch supported by columns or pillars.

Potentially Eligible: Properties that may be eligible for listing on the National Register pending further research and investigation.

Property: A building, site, structure, and/or object situated within a delineated boundary.

Property Type: A classification for a building, structure, site, or object based on its historic use or function.

Queen Anne Style: Circa 1880-1900. A style that enjoyed widespread popularity, particularly in eastern Nebraska. These houses are typically two-stories in height, have asymmetrical facades, and steeply pitched rooflines of irregular shape. Characteristics include a variety of surface textures on walls, prominent towers, tall chimneys and porches with gingerbread trim.

Setting: Quality of integrity applying to the physical environment of a historic property.

Shed Roof: A roof consisting of one inclined plane.

Side Gable: Circa 1860-1940. The vernacular form of a building, generally a house, in which the roof's gable end is perpendicular to the street.

Significance: Importance of a historic property as defined by the National Register criteria in one or more areas of significance.

Site: The location of a prehistoric or historic event.

Spanish Colonial Revival Style: Circa 1900-1920. These buildings, which have a southwestern flavor, show masonry construction usually covered with plaster or stucco, red clay tiled hipped roofs and arcaded porches. Some facades are enriched with curvilinear and decorated roof lines.

Structure: Practical construction not used to shelter human activities.

Stucco: A material usually made of Portland cement, sand, and a small percentage of lime and applied in a plastic state to form a hard covering for exterior walls.

Tudor Revival Style: Circa 1920-1940. A style that reflects a blend of variety of elements from late English medieval styles. It is identified by steep gables, half-timbering, and mixtures of stone, stucco, and wood.

Turret: A small tower that is an ornamental structure and projects at an angle from a larger structure.

Two-Story Cube: Circa 1860-1890. The vernacular form, generally for a house, which is two-story structure, box-like in massing, with a hipped roof, near absence of surface ornament, and simple exterior cladding such as brick, clapboard, or stucco.

Vernacular: A functional, simplistic building or structure without stylistic details. Vernacular form buildings were usually designed by the builder, not by an architect.

Workmanship: Quality of integrity applying to the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture, people, or artisan.